



# STORIES FROM THE MAHABHARATA

● Indra and Shibi ● Nala Damayanti ● Kacha and Devayani ● Indra and Shachi ● Savitri





## The route to your roots

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**The route to your roots**

## **INDRA & SHIBI**

It is little wonder that Indra was the lord of all gods – he displayed the true characteristics of a perfect leader. It was his diligence and eye for detail that ensured that only the virtuous were given god-like status. Arrogance and impatience were soon corrected. But, most importantly, as a leader, Lord Indra strove to be worthy of his position.

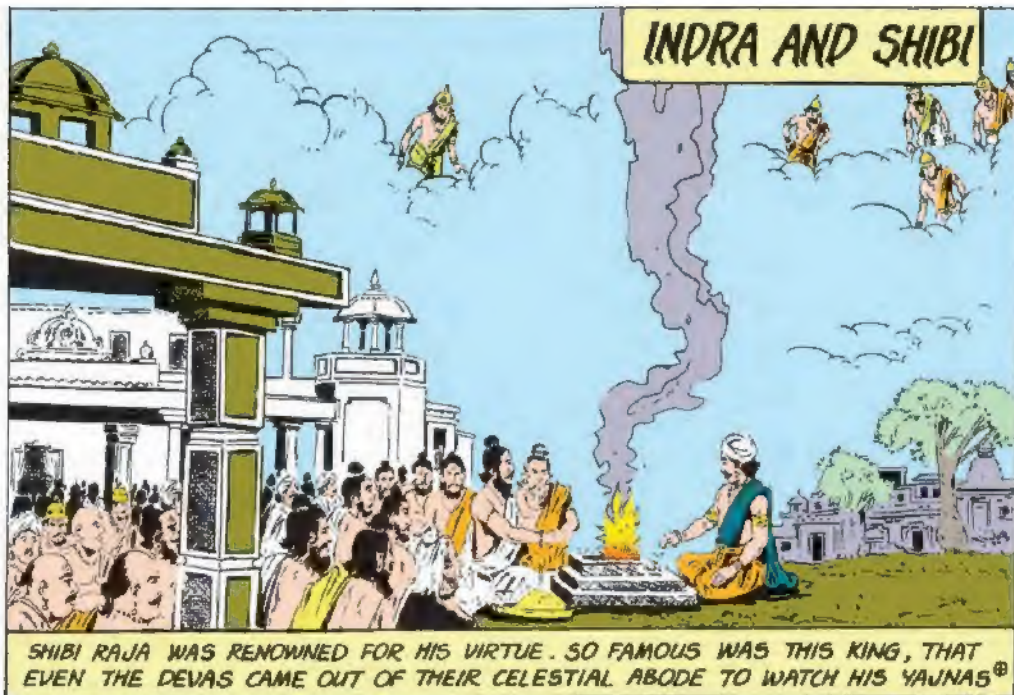
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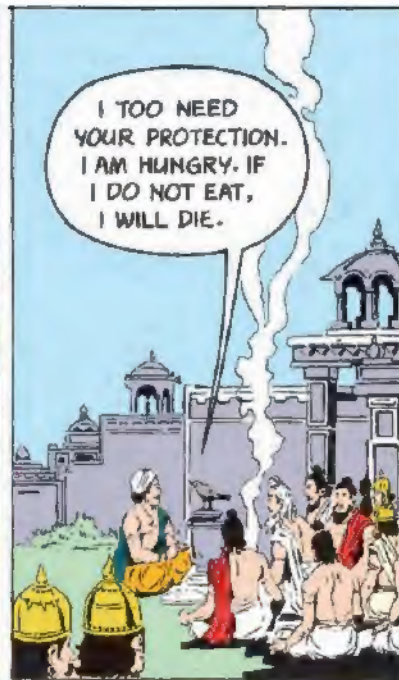
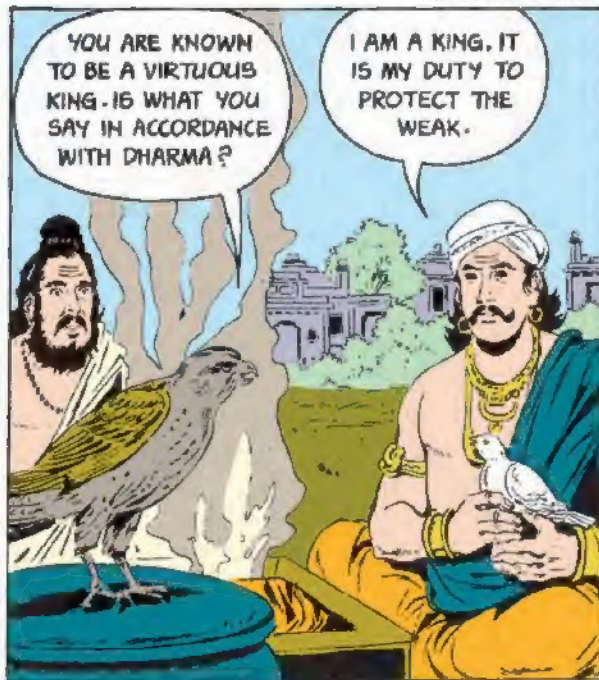




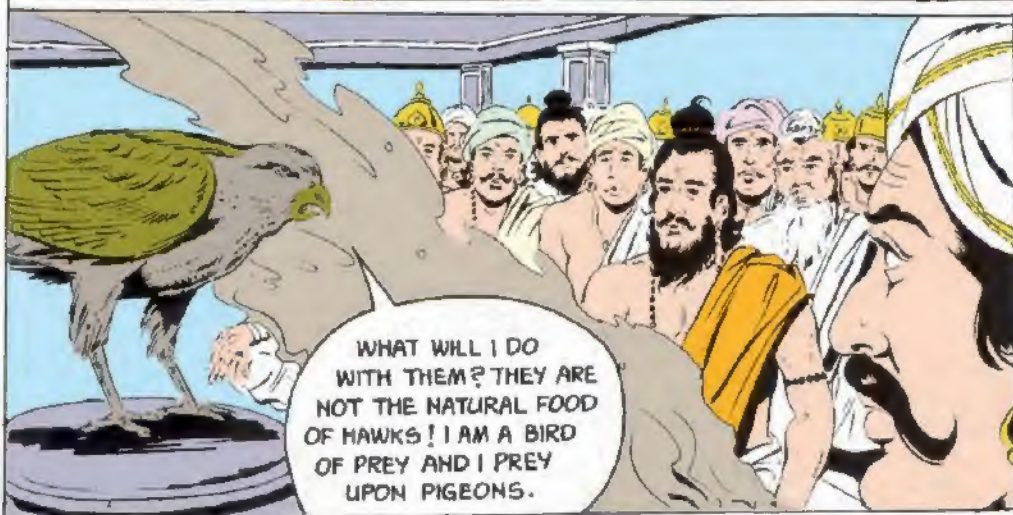
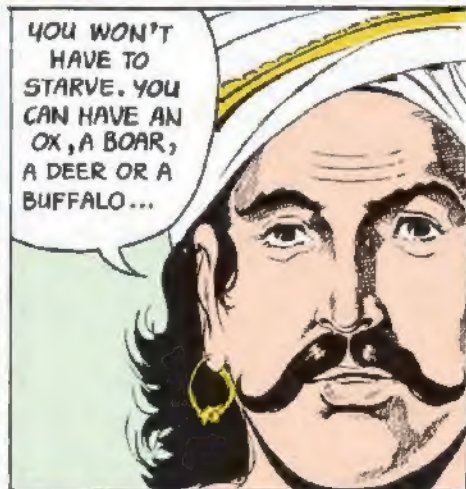
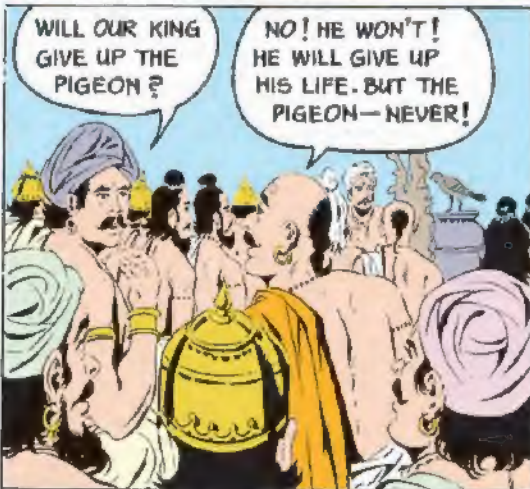




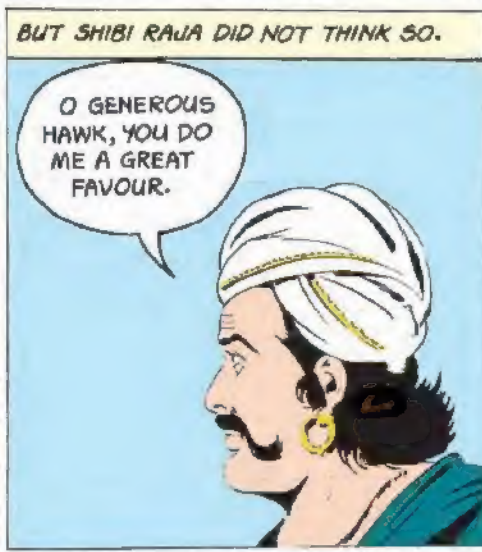
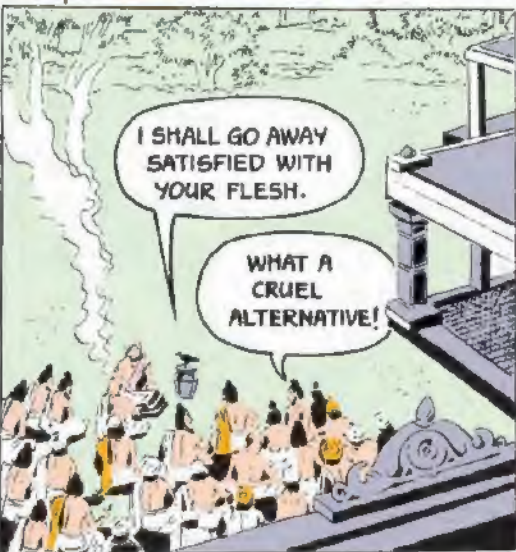
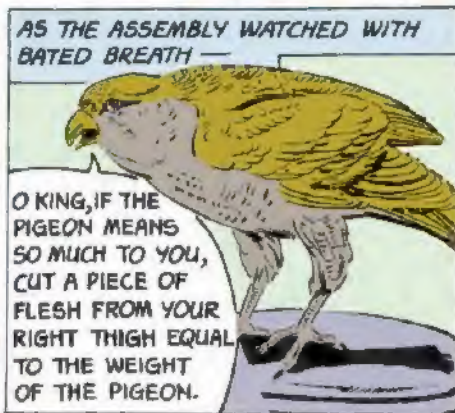
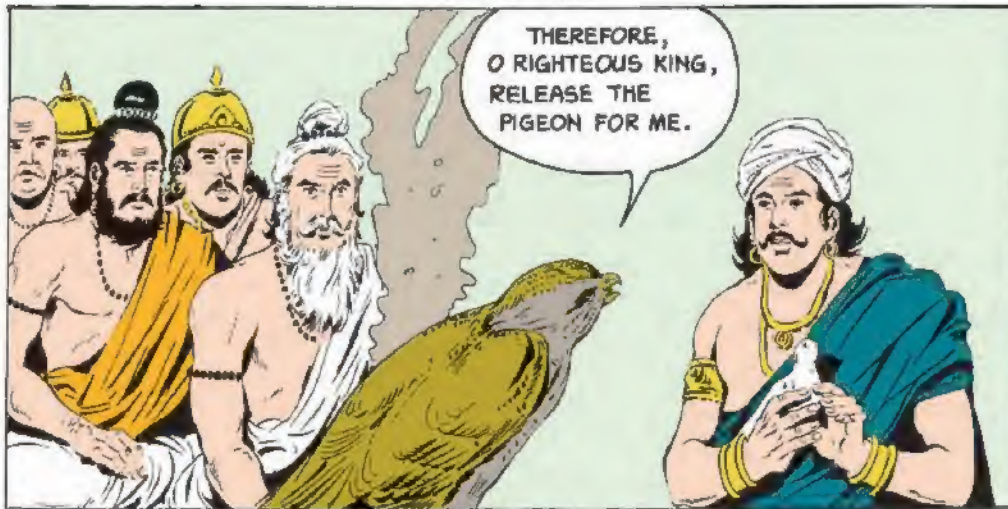






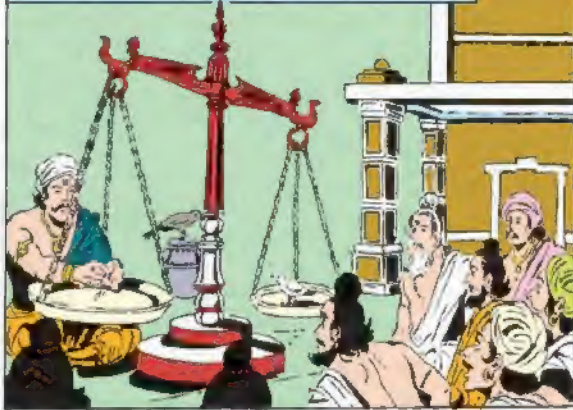




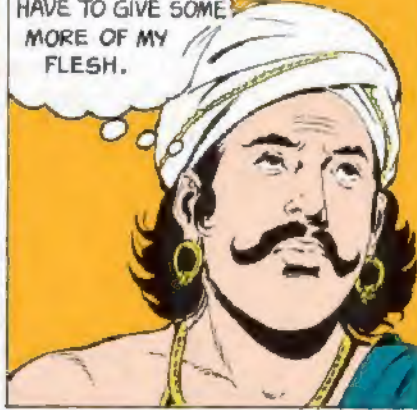




AND CUTTING OUT HIS FLESH, SHIBI RAJA  
WEIGHED IT AGAINST THE PIGEON.



OH! THE PIGEON  
IS HEAVY! I WILL  
HAVE TO GIVE SOME  
MORE OF MY  
FLESH.

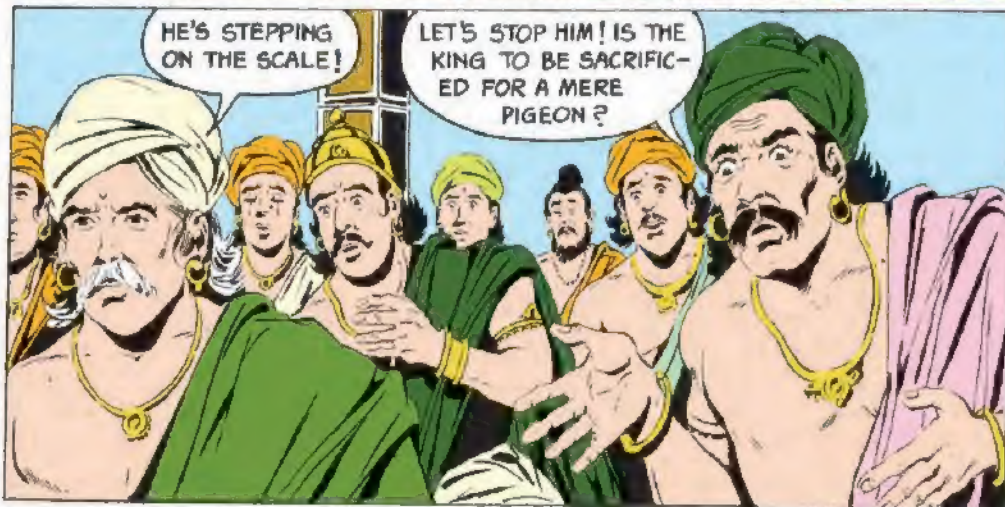


SHIBI GAVE UP PORTION AFTER PORTION OF HIS FLESH BUT THE PIGEON  
WEIGHED MORE.

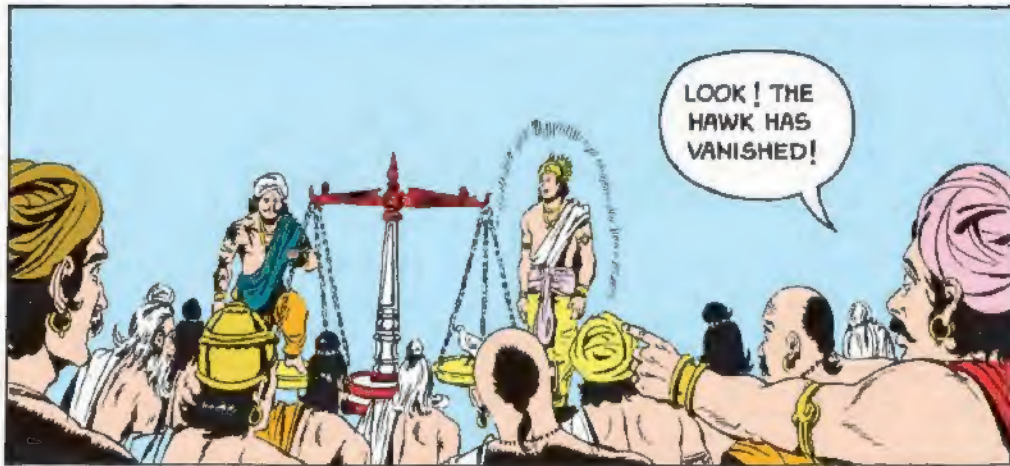


HE'S STEPPING  
ON THE SCALE!

LET'S STOP HIM! IS THE  
KING TO BE SACRIFIC-  
ED FOR A MERE  
PIGEON?







AND SHIBI BECAME WHOLE AGAIN.



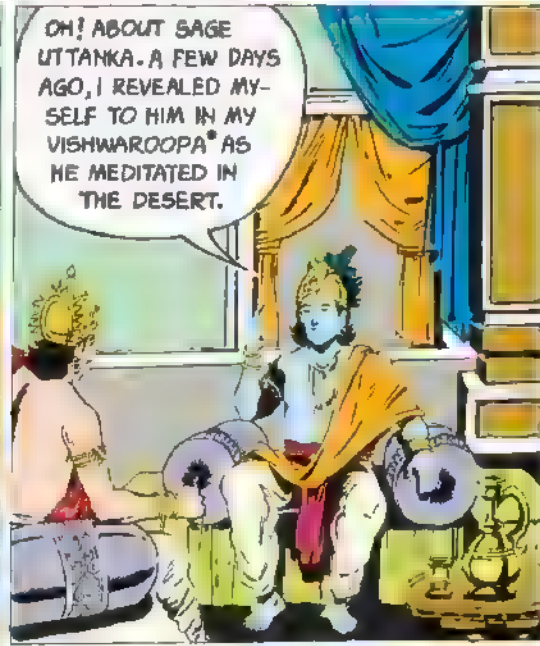
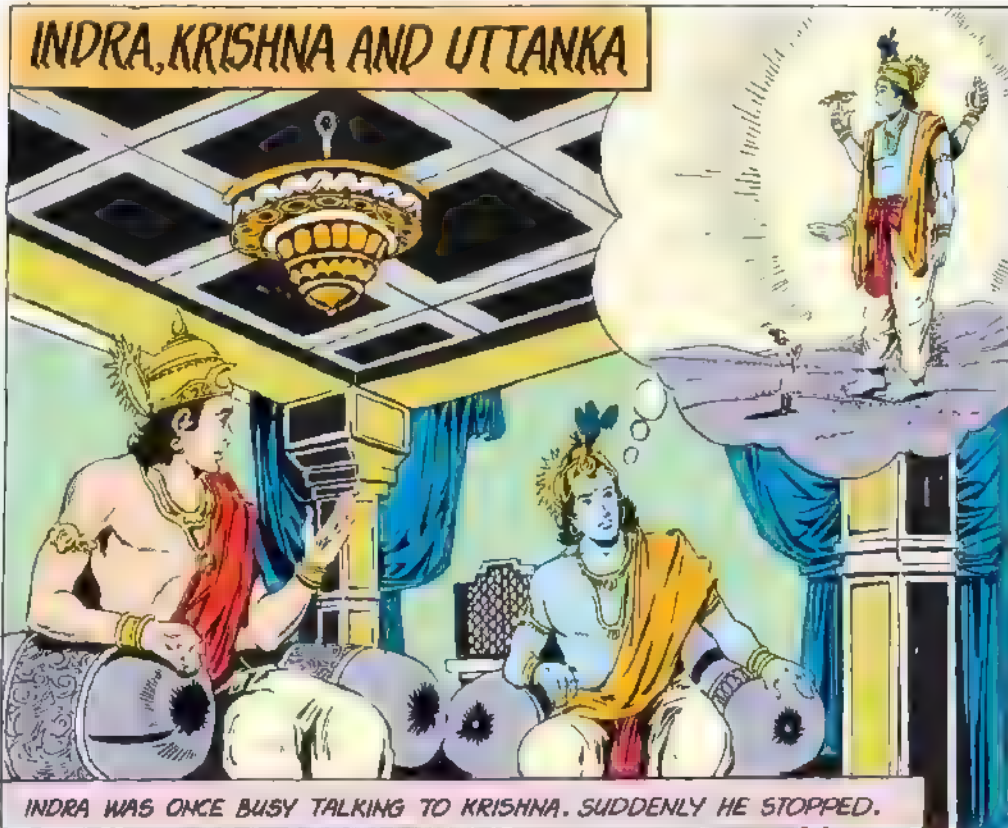
THE NEXT MOMENT —



YOUR NAME SHALL REMAIN IMMORTAL ON EARTH; AND A PLACE WILL BE KEPT FOR YOU IN HEAVEN.



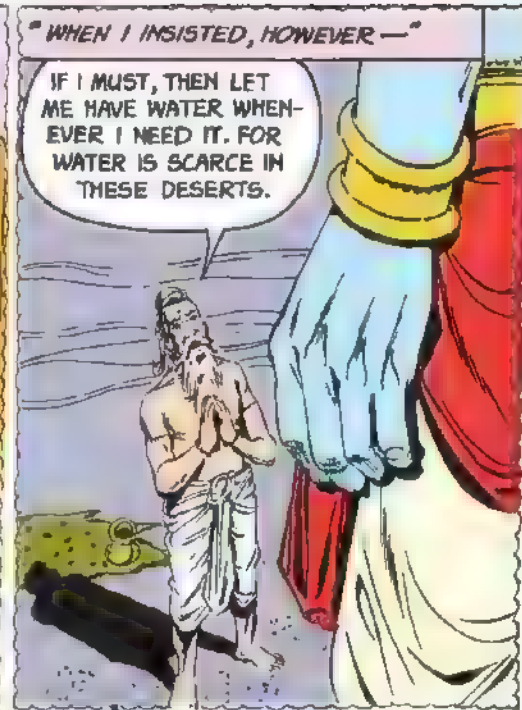




\* COSMIC FORM OF KRISHNA IN WHICH ALL

8 XISTS IS SEEN WITHIN HIM

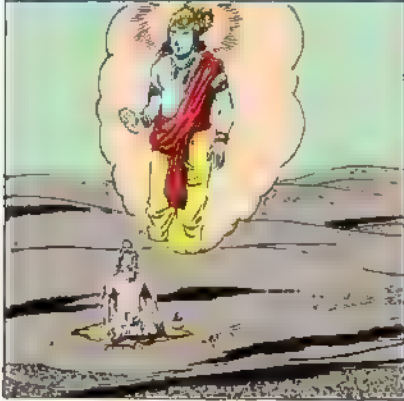
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MEANWHILE, UTTANKA WAS STILL THINKING ABOUT KRISHNA.



SUDDENLY —



TO HIS DISMAY HE SAW A CHANDALA\* APPROACHING HIM.



UTTANKA WAS AGHAST. HE SHRANK AWAY FROM THE CHANDALA.



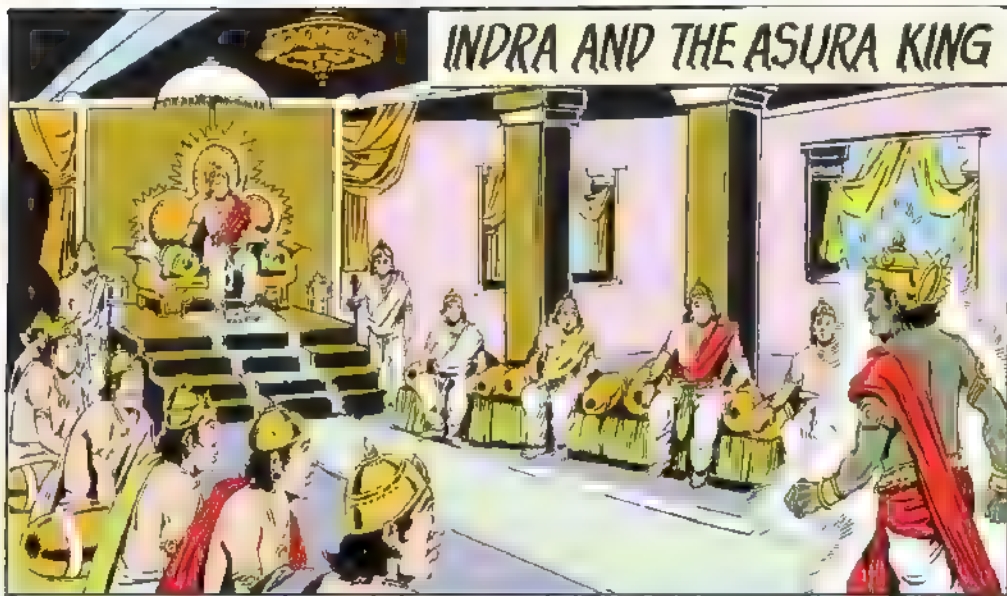
\* AN OUTCASTE











## INDRA AND THE ASURA KING

IN THE DAYS OF YORE, THE DEVAS AND ASURAS WERE EVER AT WAR, FIGHTING FOR SUPREMACY OVER HEAVEN, EARTH AND THE NETHER REGIONS. ONE DAY, A VIRTUOUS ASURA KING CAME TO AMARAVATI, THE CAPITAL OF INDRA, KING OF THE DEVAS.



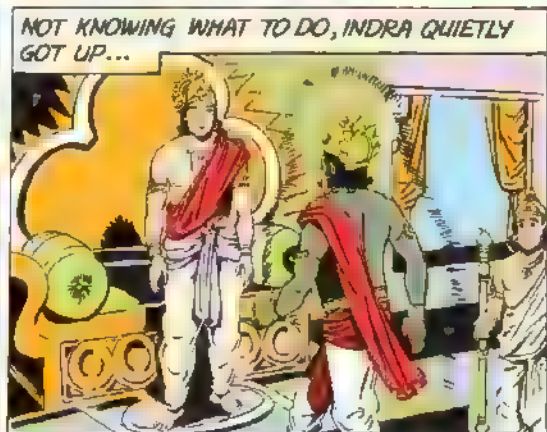
INDRA WAS PERPLEXED.

HE IS THE SWORN ENEMY OF OUR RACE. YET HE COMES ALONE AND UNARMED!

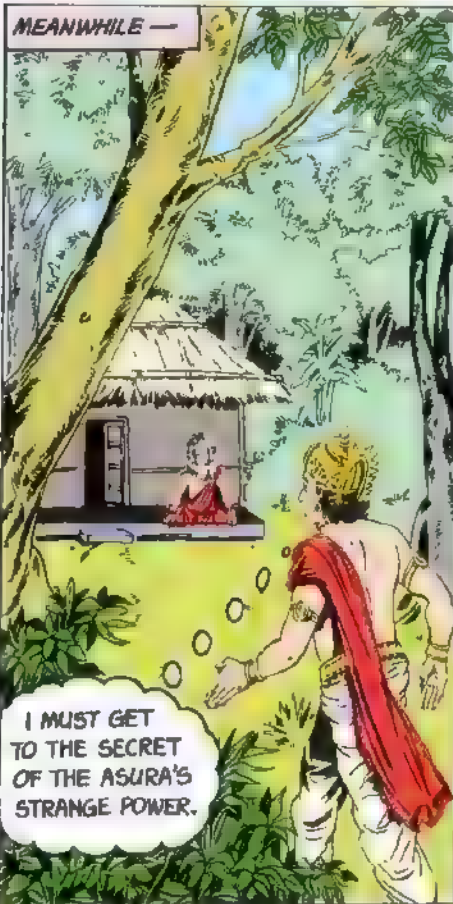
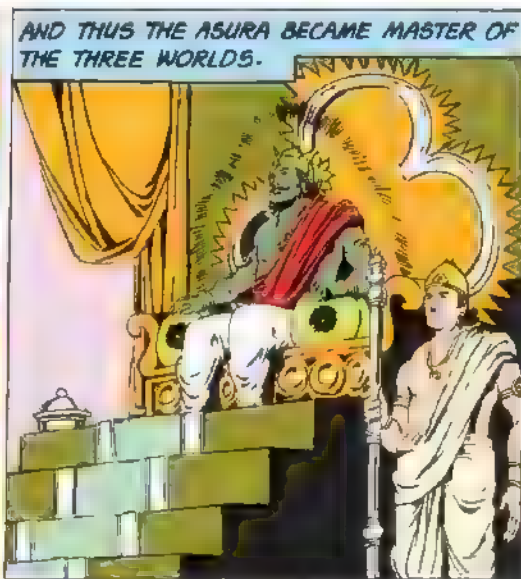


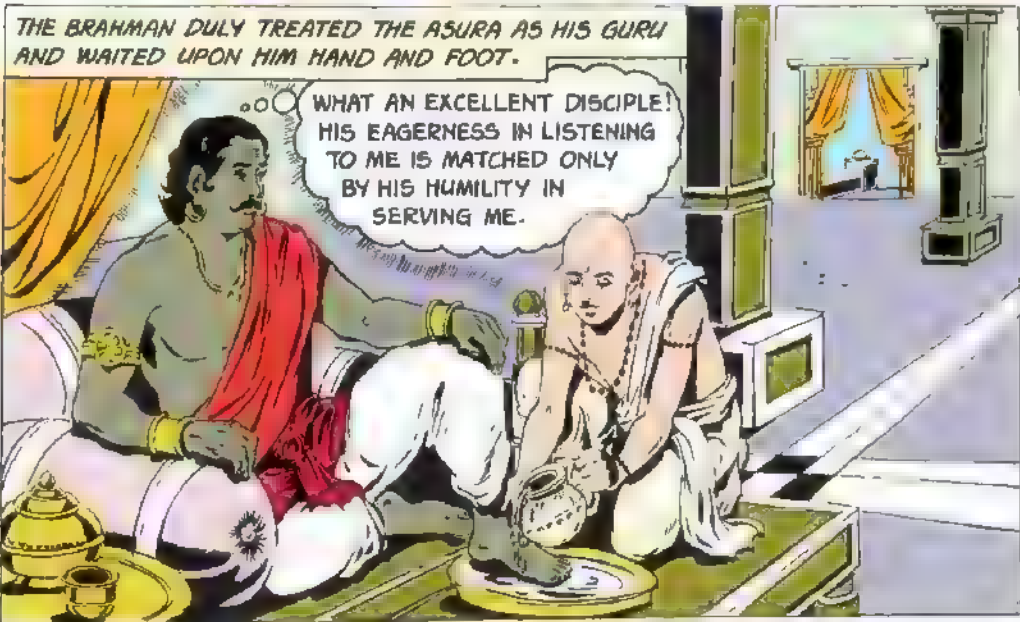
SOON THE PERPLEXITY TURNED TO ALARM. THE ASURA SEEMED TO HAVE A STRANGE EFFECT ON THE DEVAS.

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THEM? THEY SEEM TO BE ENCHANT-ED BY HIM!





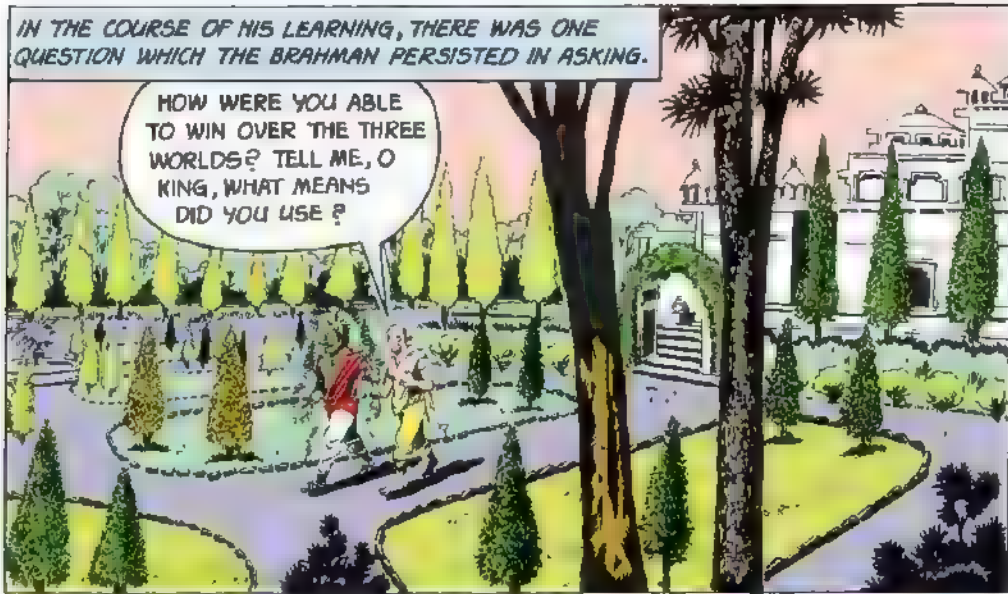






IN THE COURSE OF HIS LEARNING, THERE WAS ONE QUESTION WHICH THE BRAHMAN PERSISTED IN ASKING.

HOW WERE YOU ABLE TO WIN OVER THE THREE WORLDS? TELL ME, O KING, WHAT MEANS DID YOU USE ?



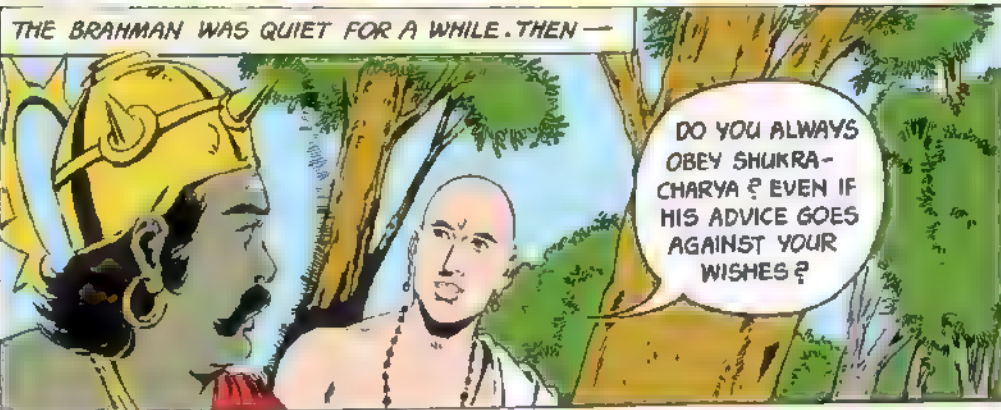
MY UNQUESTIONING OBEDIENCE TO SHUKRACHARYA, MY PRECEPTOR. MY ACTIONS ARE BASED ON HIS PRECEPTS.

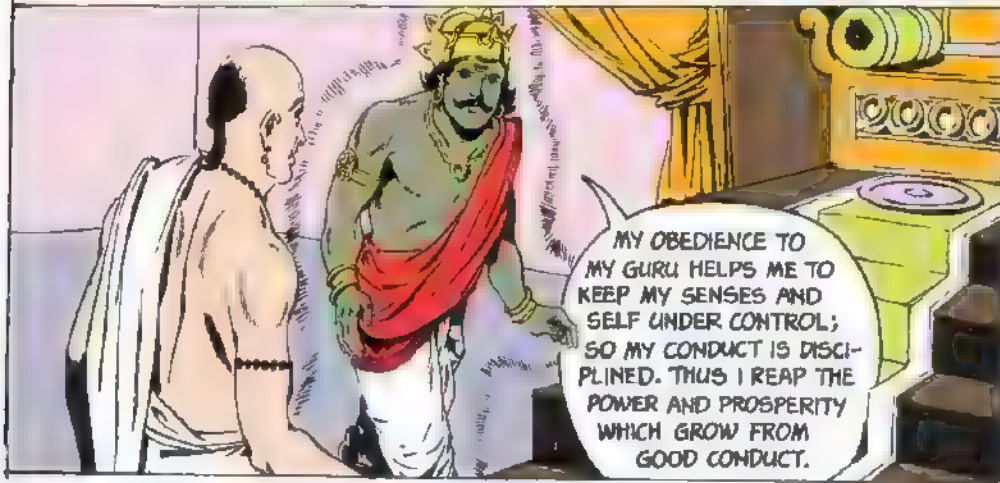
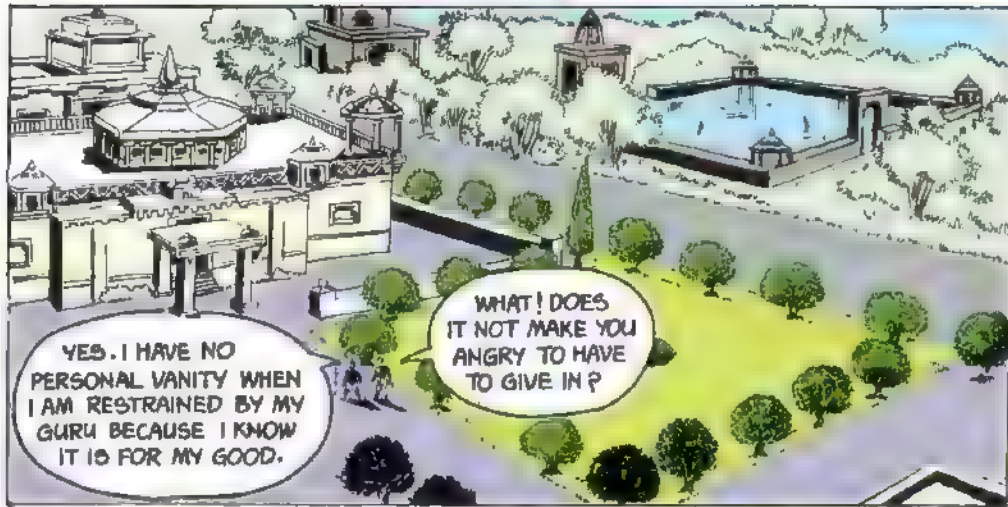
ALAS ! I CAN'T SAY THAT I HAVE ALWAYS TAKEN THE ADVICE OF MY GURU, BRIHASPATI !



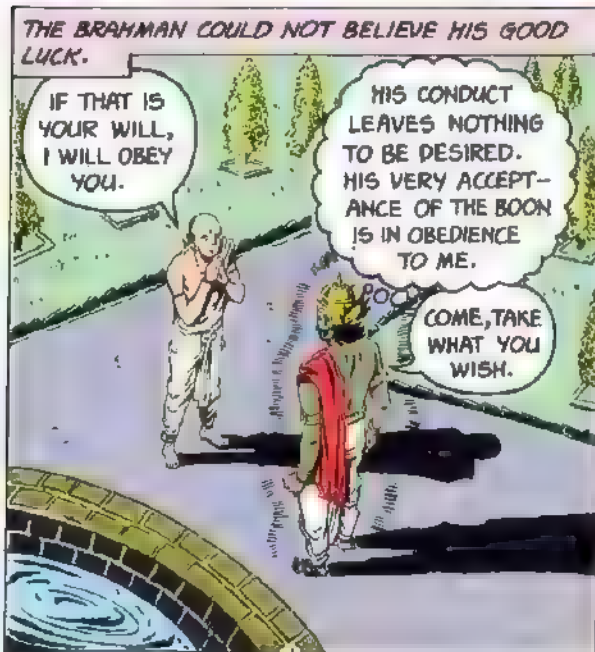
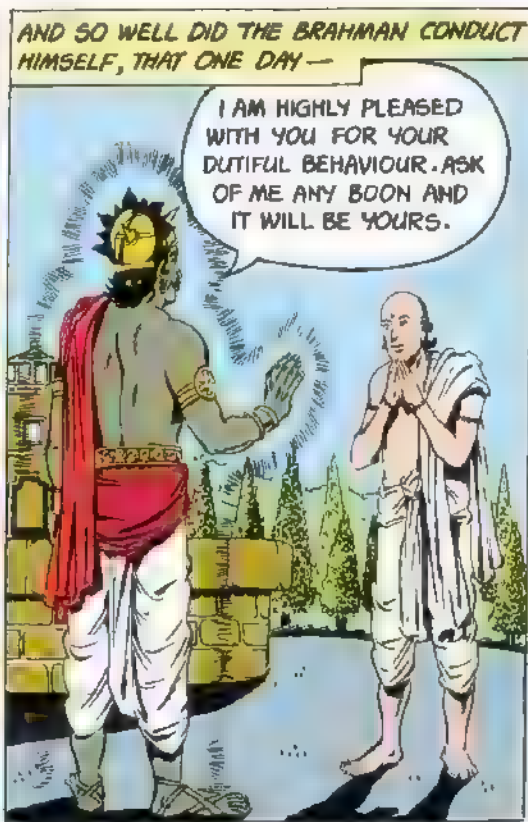
THE BRAHMAN WAS QUIET FOR A WHILE. THEN —

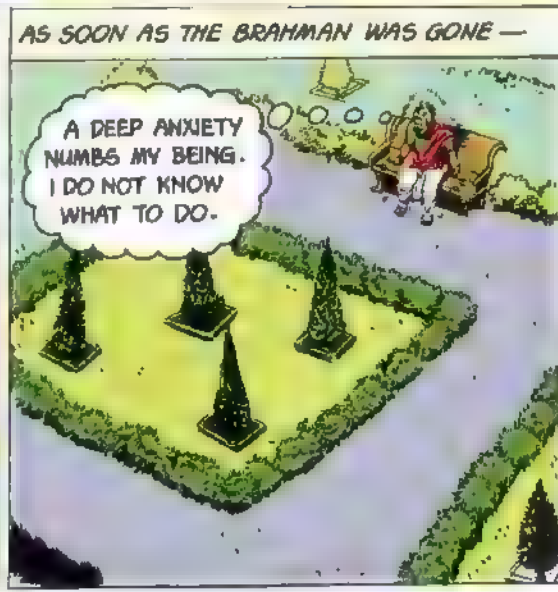
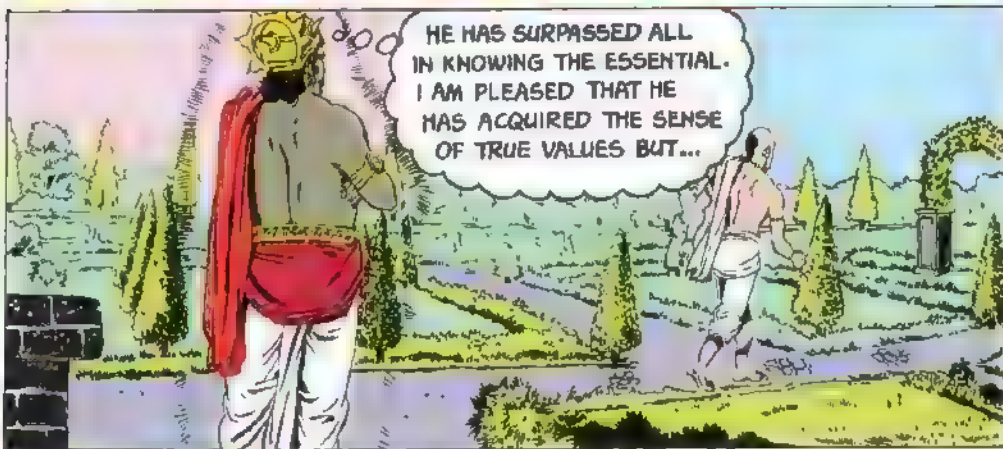
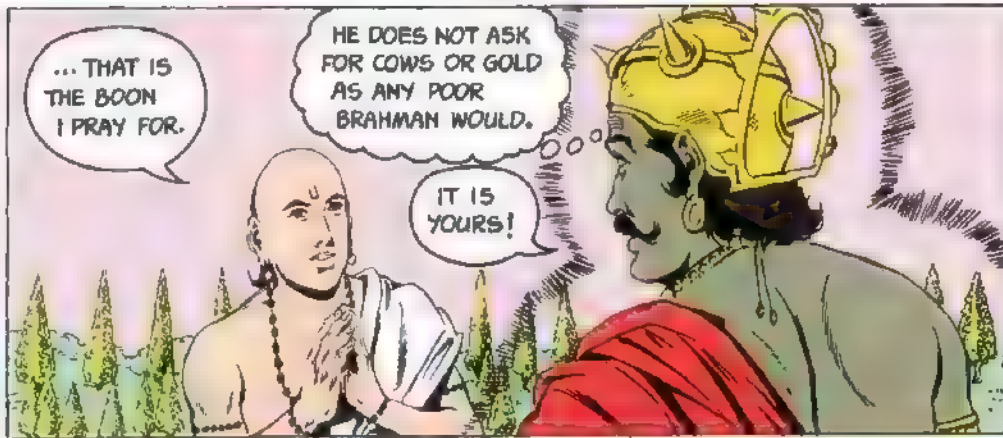
DO YOU ALWAYS OBEY SHUKRACHARYA ? EVEN IF HIS ADVICE GOES AGAINST YOUR WISHES ?





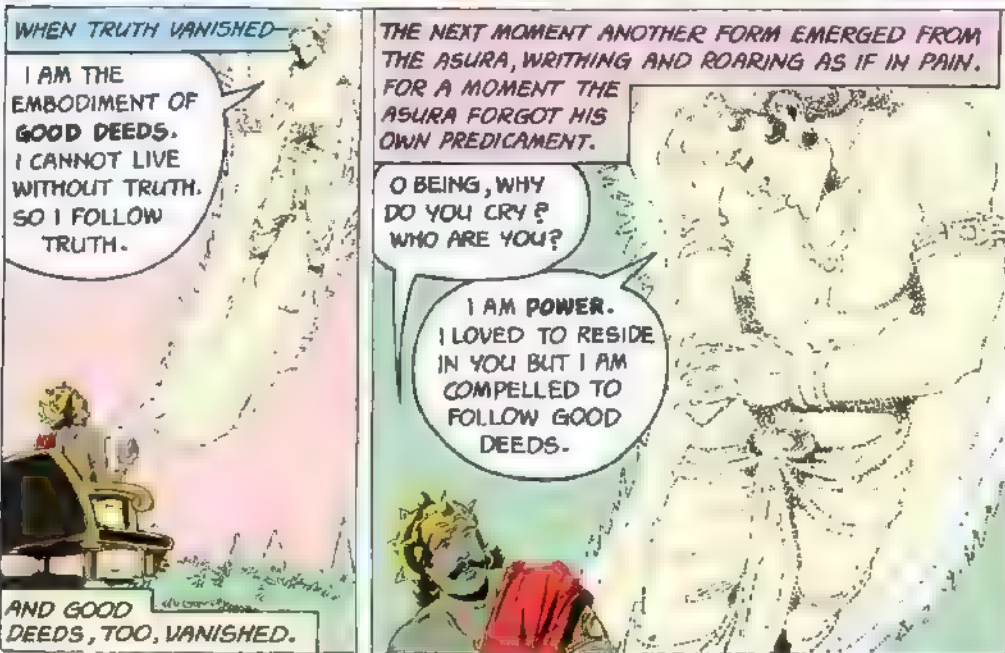






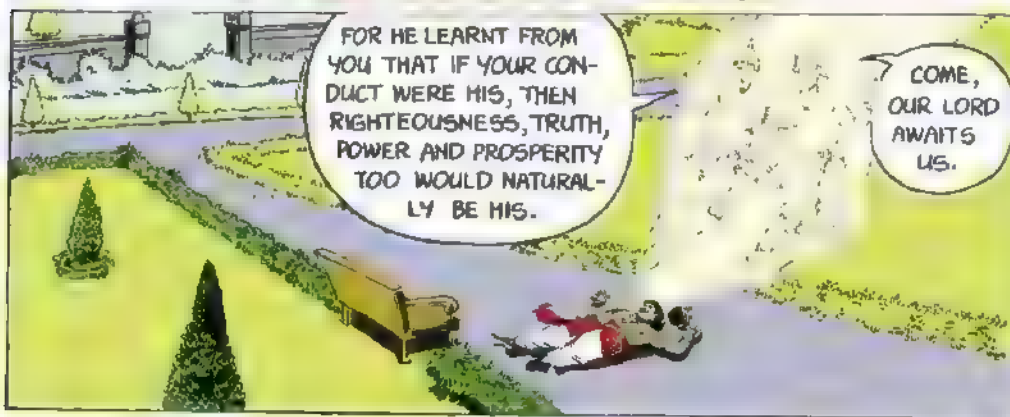
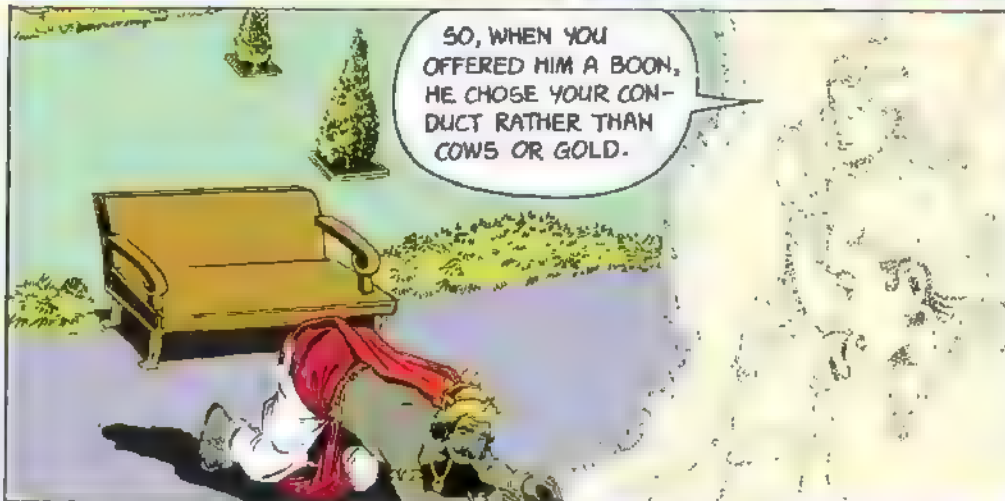
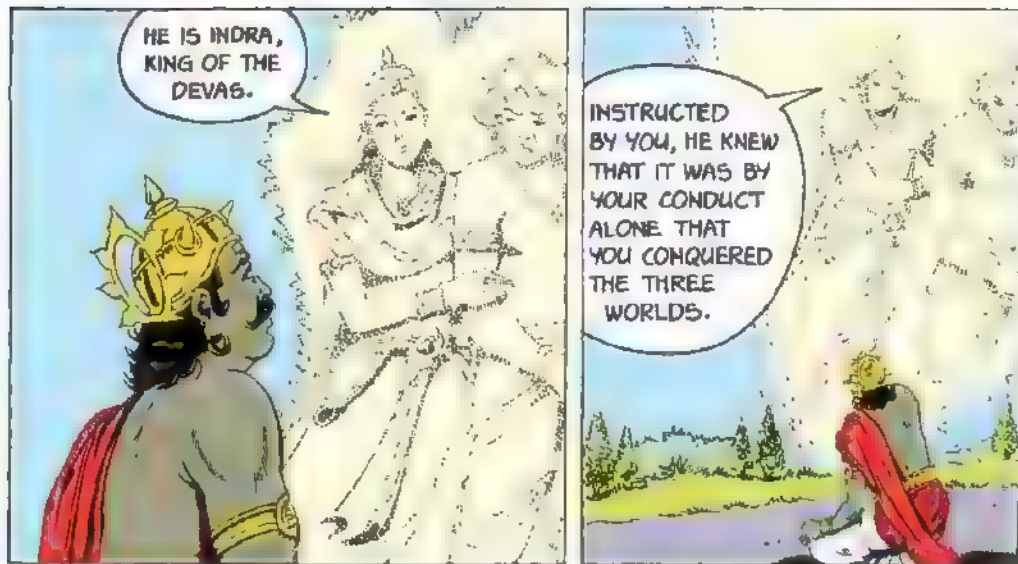






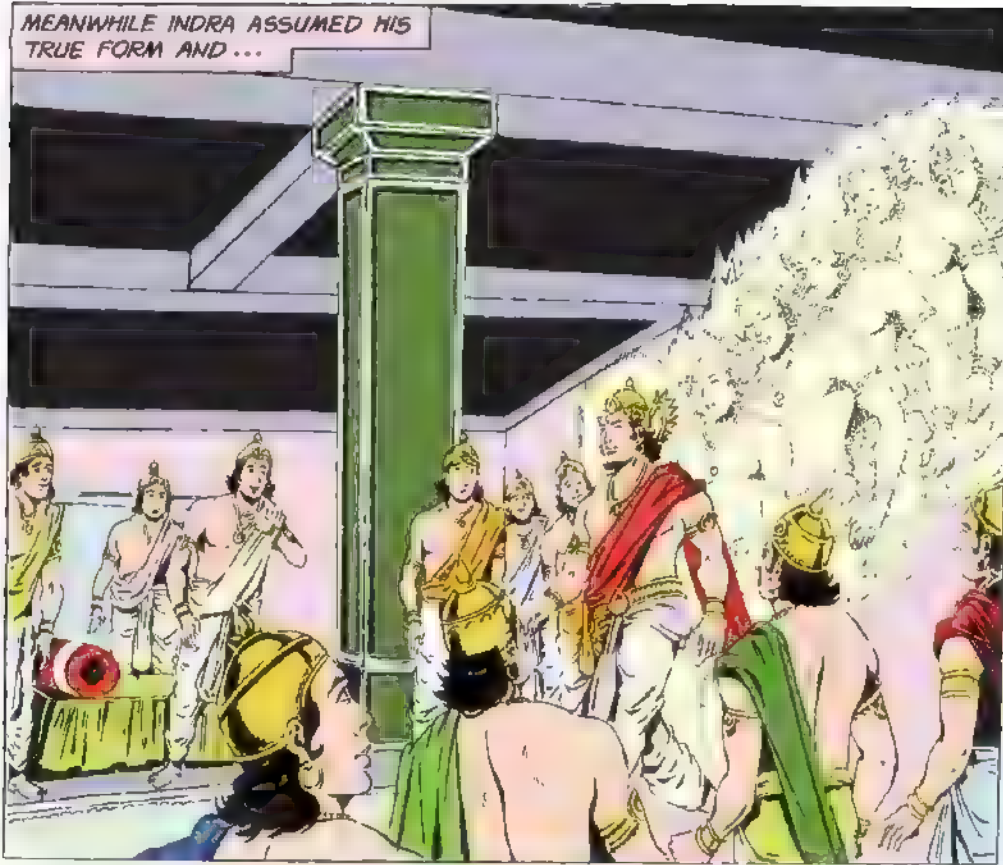




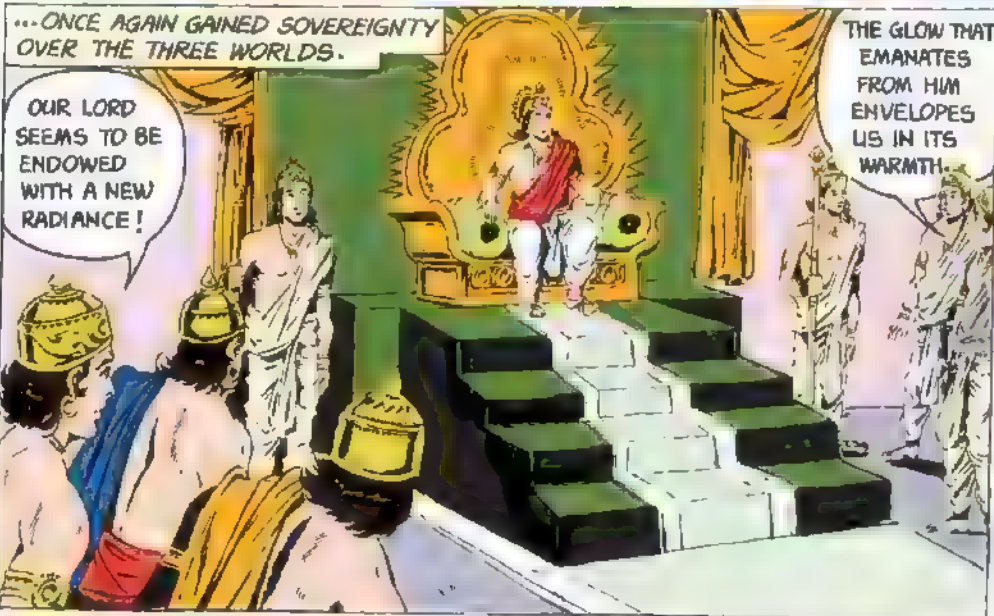




MEANWHILE INDRA ASSUMED HIS  
TRUE FORM AND ...

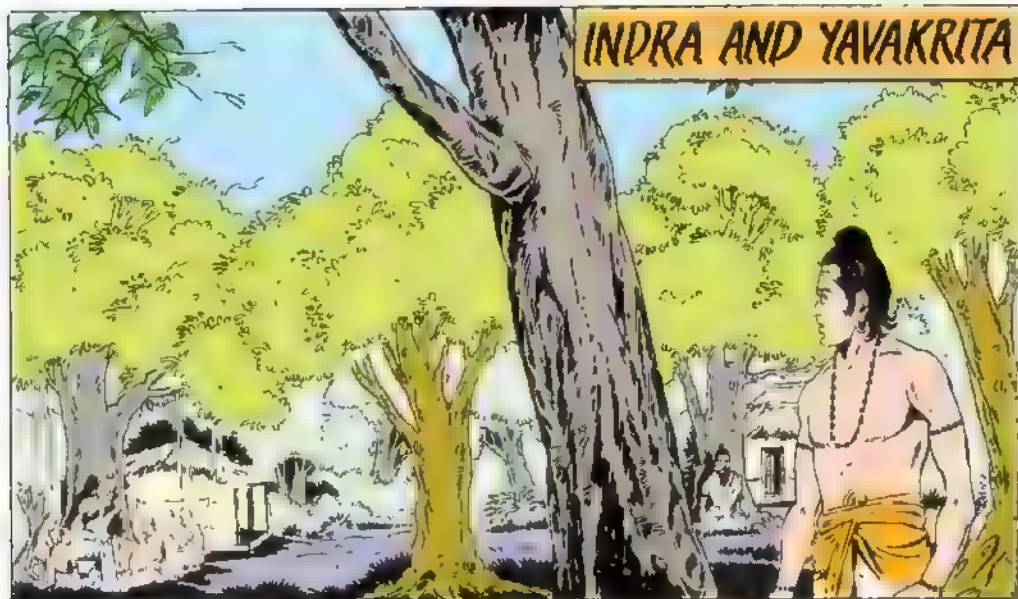


...ONCE AGAIN GAINED SOVEREIGNTY  
OVER THE THREE WORLDS.



OUR LORD  
SEEMS TO BE  
ENDOWED  
WITH A NEW  
RADIANCE !

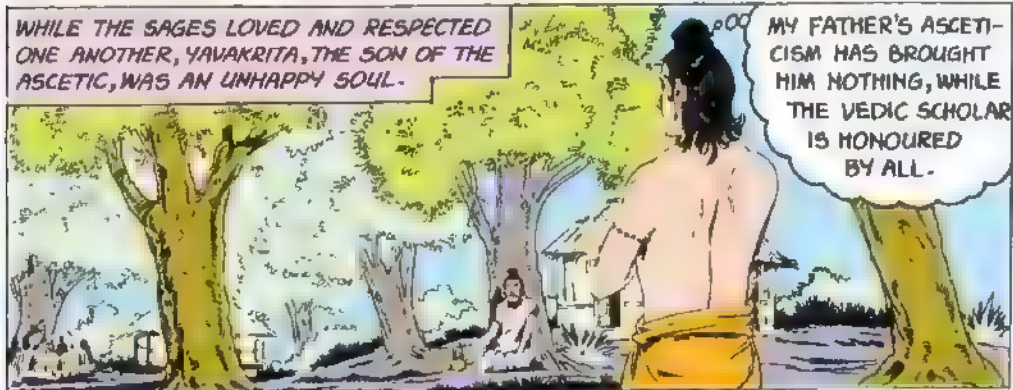
THE GLOW THAT  
EMANATES  
FROM HIM  
ENVELOPES  
US IN ITS  
WARMTH.



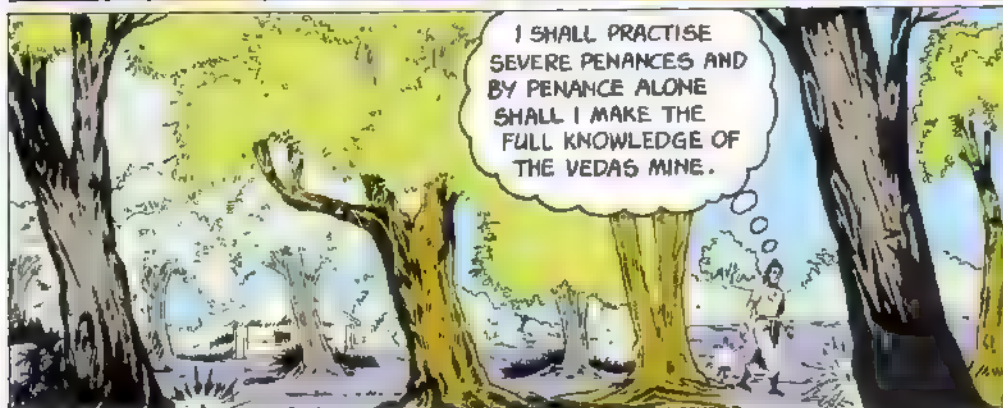
## INDRA AND YAVAKRITA

IN THE DAYS OF YORE, THERE LIVED TWO SAGES WHO WERE CLOSE FRIENDS. ONE OF THEM WAS A RENOWNED VEDIC SCHOLAR AND THE OTHER, AN ASCETIC.

WHILE THE SAGES LOVED AND RESPECTED ONE ANOTHER, YAVAKRITA, THE SON OF THE ASCETIC, WAS AN UNHAPPY SOUL.

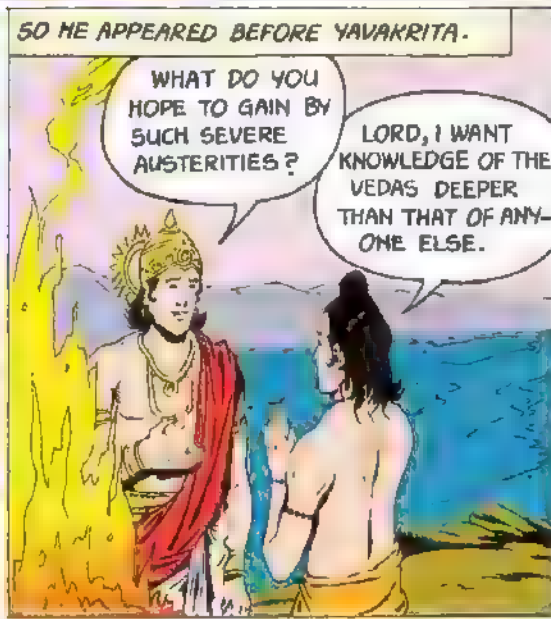
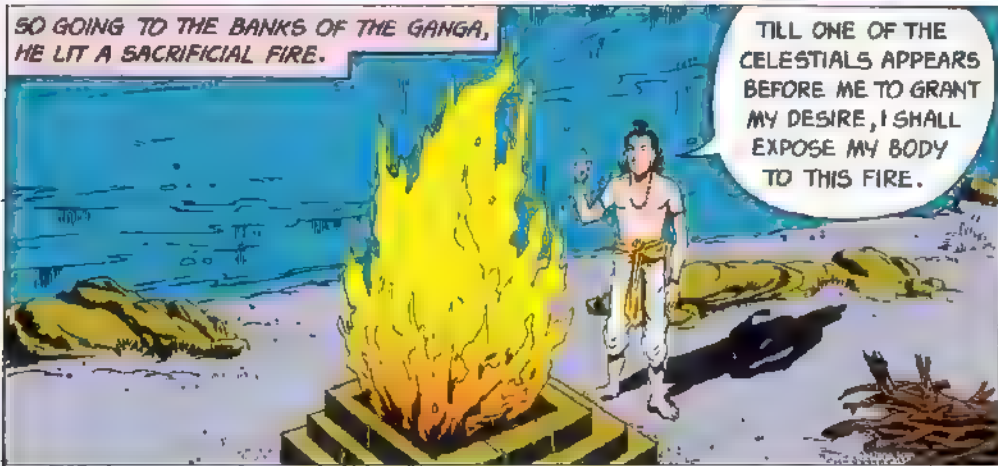
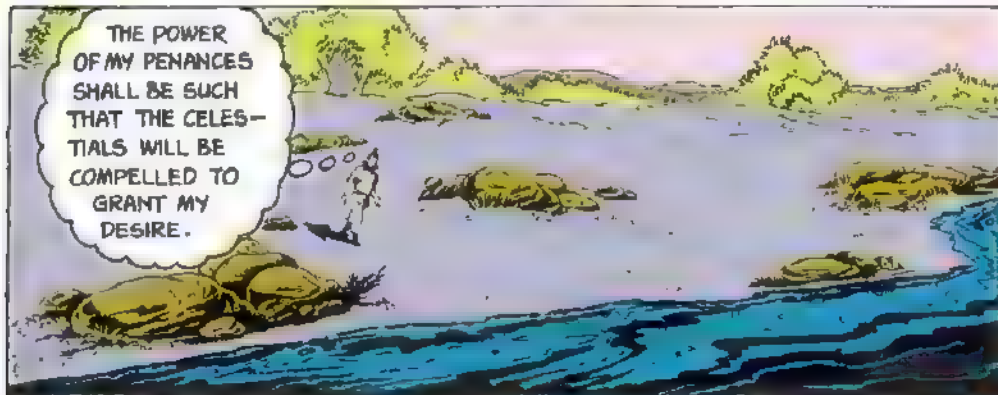


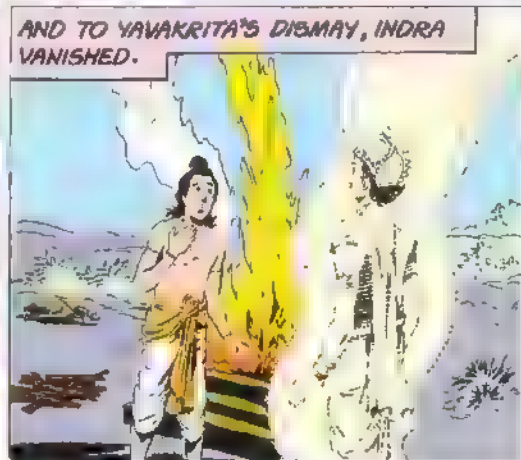
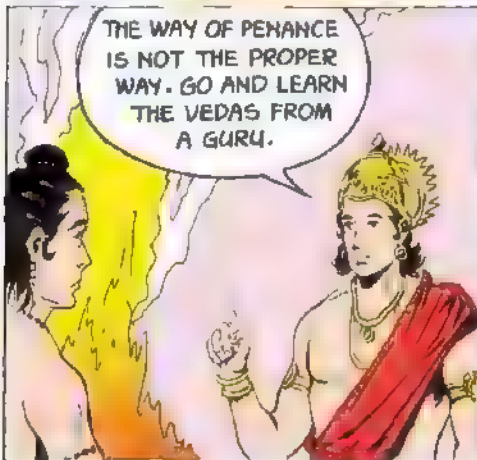
MY FATHER'S ASCETICISM HAS BROUGHT HIM NOTHING, WHILE THE VEDIC SCHOLAR IS HONOURED BY ALL.



I SHALL PRACTISE SEVERE PENANCES AND BY PENANCE ALONE SHALL I MAKE THE FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE VEDAS MINE.







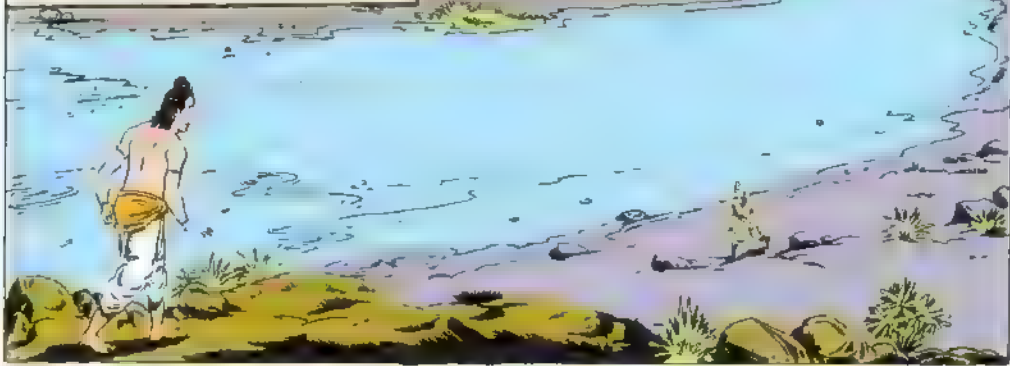
BUT HE WAS NOT GOING TO GIVE UP.







EARLY NEXT MORNING, AS YAVAKRITA WENT TO THE SPOT ON THE BANK OF THE GANGA WHERE HE USUALLY PERFORMED HIS ABLUTIONS ...



...A STRANGE SIGHT MET HIS EYES.

WHAT IS HE UP TO?

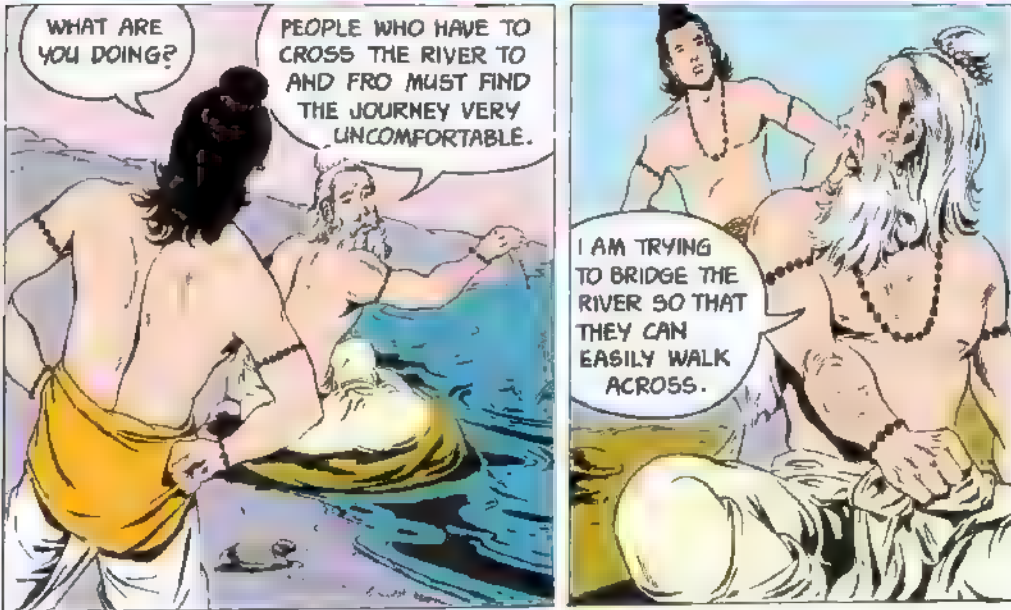
GOOD! HE HAS SEEN ME.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

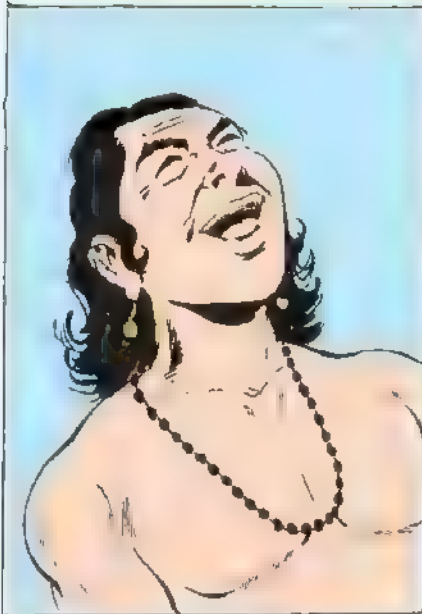
PEOPLE WHO HAVE TO CROSS THE RIVER TO AND FRO MUST FIND THE JOURNEY VERY UNCOMFORTABLE.

I AM TRYING TO BRIDGE THE RIVER SO THAT THEY CAN EASILY WALK ACROSS.





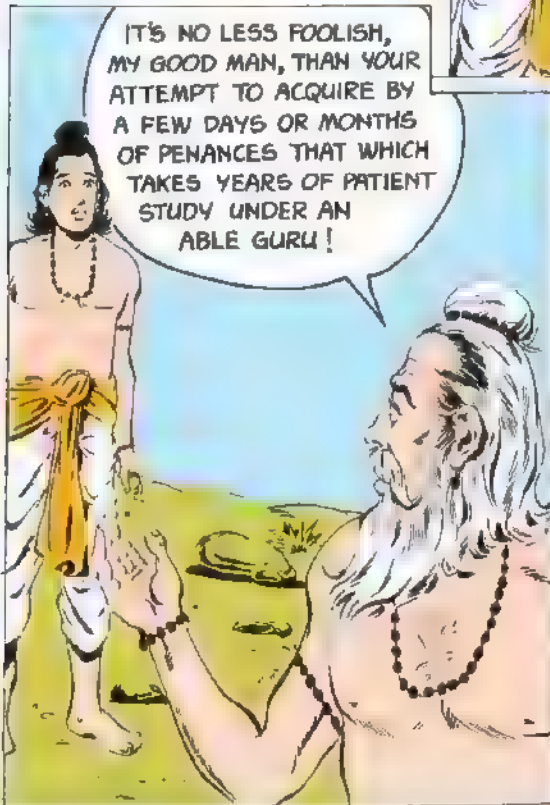
YAVAKRITA BURST OUT LAUGHING.



SURELY YOU MUST KNOW THAT YOU CANNOT BRIDGE THAT MIGHTY RIVER WITH YOUR PUNY HANDFULS OF SAND. WHAT A FOOLISH PURSUIT!

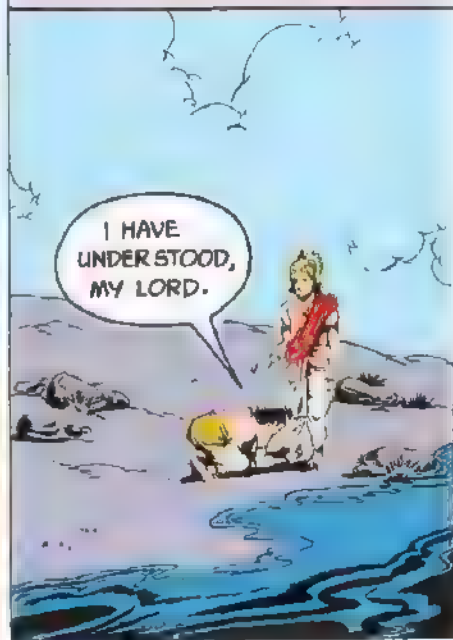


IT'S NO LESS FOOLISH, MY GOOD MAN, THAN YOUR ATTEMPT TO ACQUIRE BY A FEW DAYS OR MONTHS OF PENANCES THAT WHICH TAKES YEARS OF PATIENT STUDY UNDER AN ABLE GURU!



SUDDENLY REALISING THAT IT WAS INDRA, YAVAKRITA FELL AT HIS FEET.

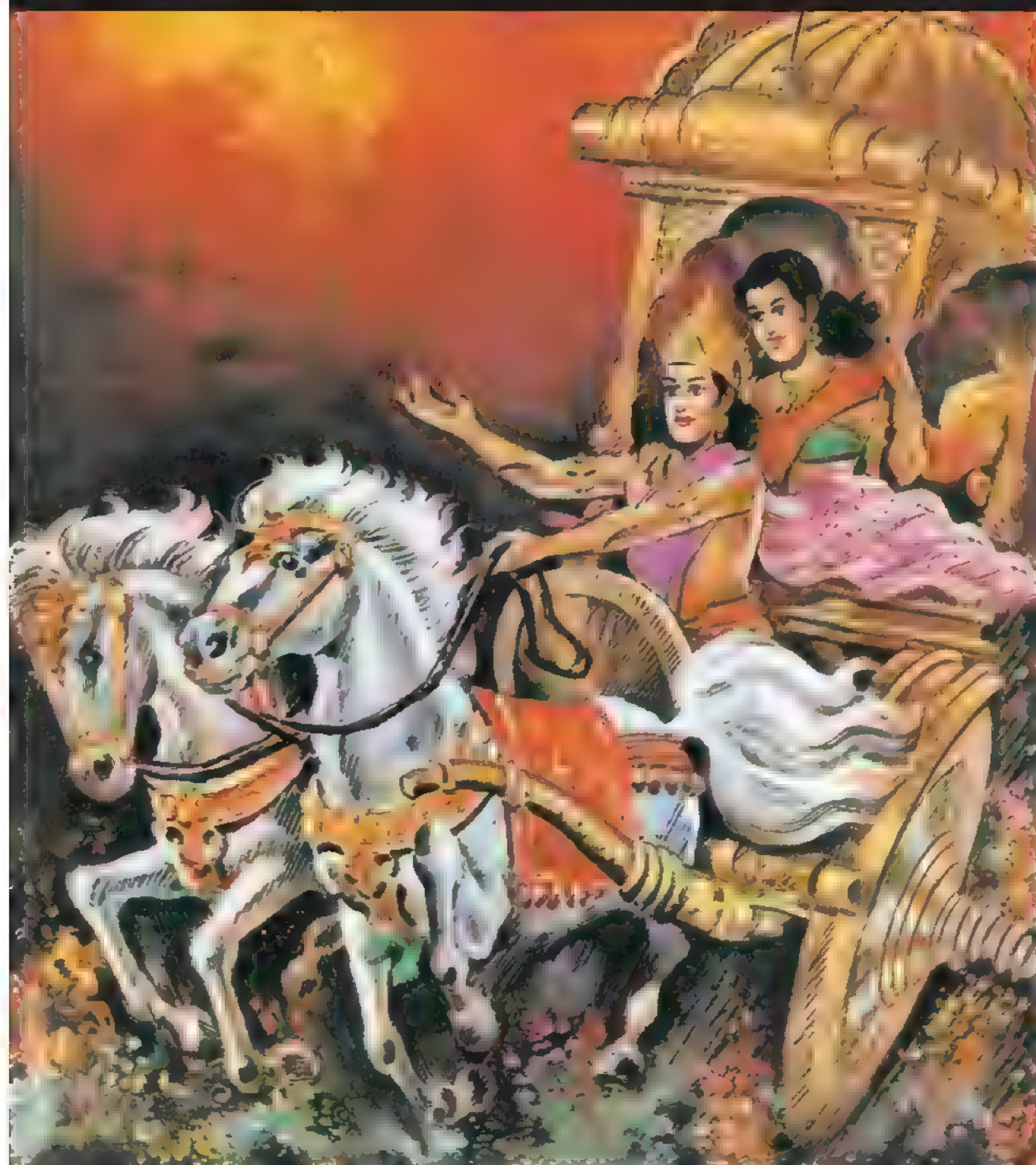
I HAVE UNDERSTOOD, MY LORD.





# NALA DAMAYANTI

THE STEADFAST LOVERS







**The route to your roots**

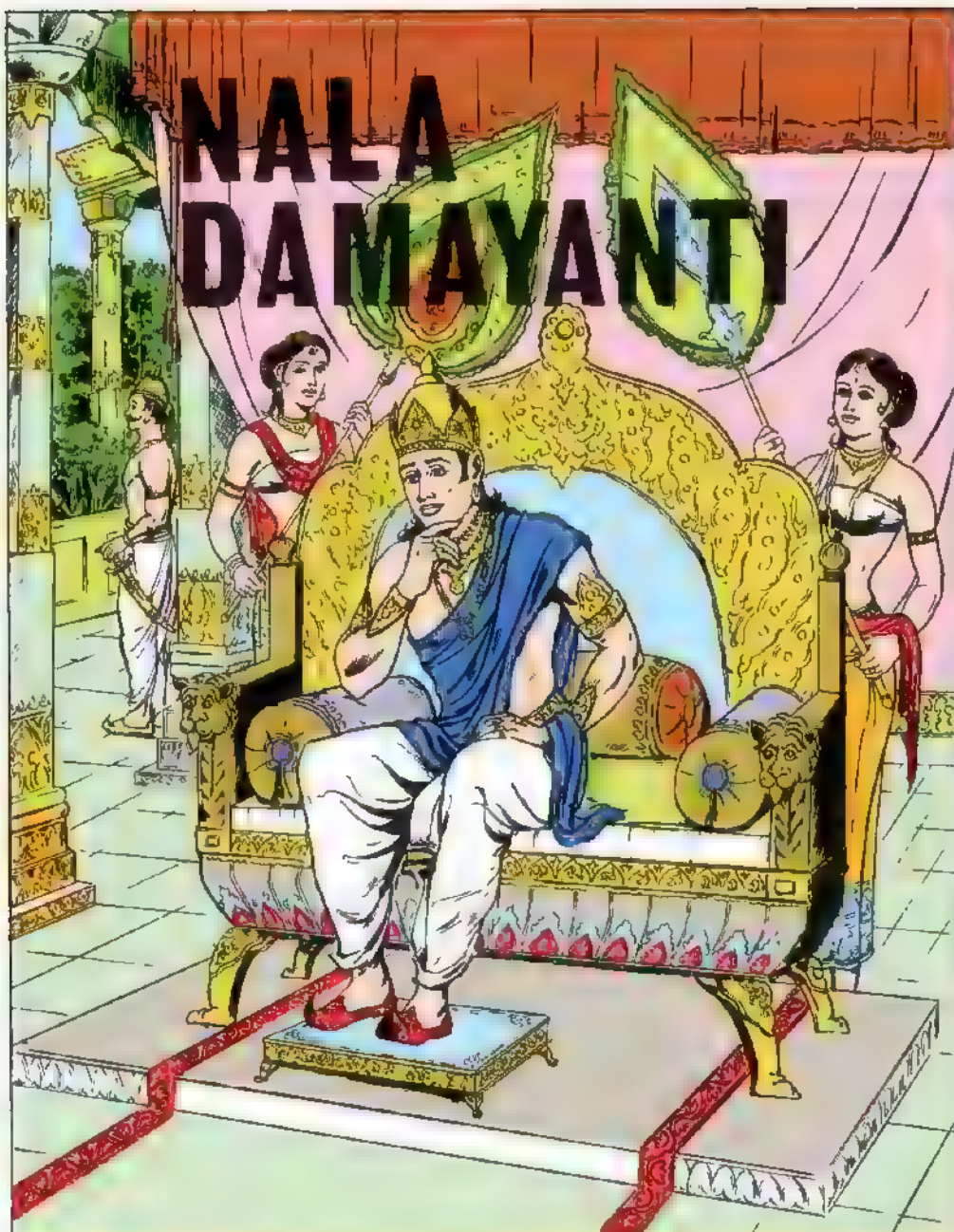
## **NALA DAMAYANTI**

King Nala's life is idyllic – until a cunning cousin tricks him out of his kingdom. Can the love of his beautiful Damayanti survive such a calamity? Will they be able to win back happiness? Full of twists and turns, the story of this ideal couple is told in the Mahabharata.

**Script**  
Abid Surti

**Illustrations**  
Souren Roy

**Editor**  
Anant Pai



THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, NALA RULED OVER THE KINGDOM OF NISHADA. HE WAS GENEROUS AND NOBLE AND WAS LOVED BY HIS SUBJECTS. BUT HE WAS ALWAYS SAD. HIS FATHER HAD GONE TO A FOREST TO SPEND THE LAST YEARS OF HIS LIFE.

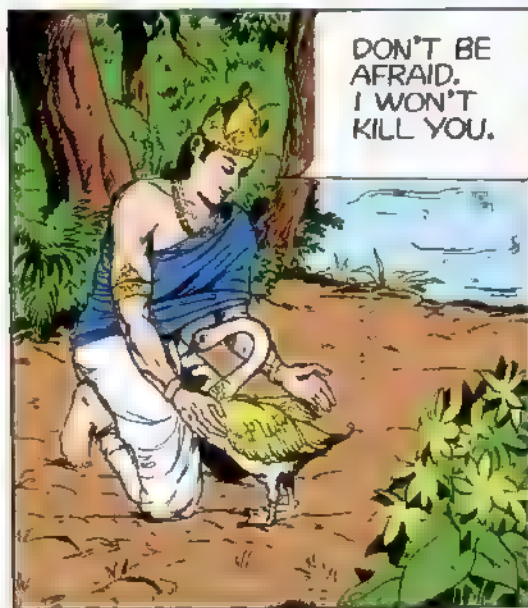
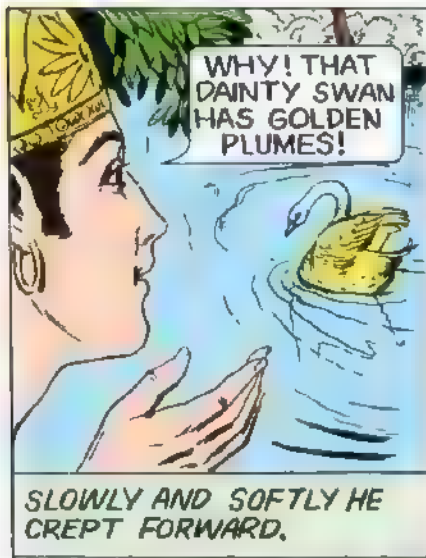


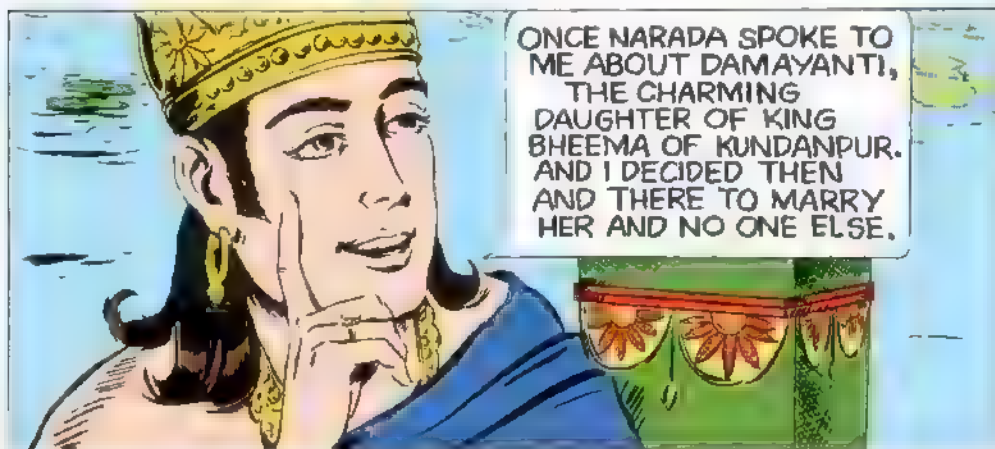
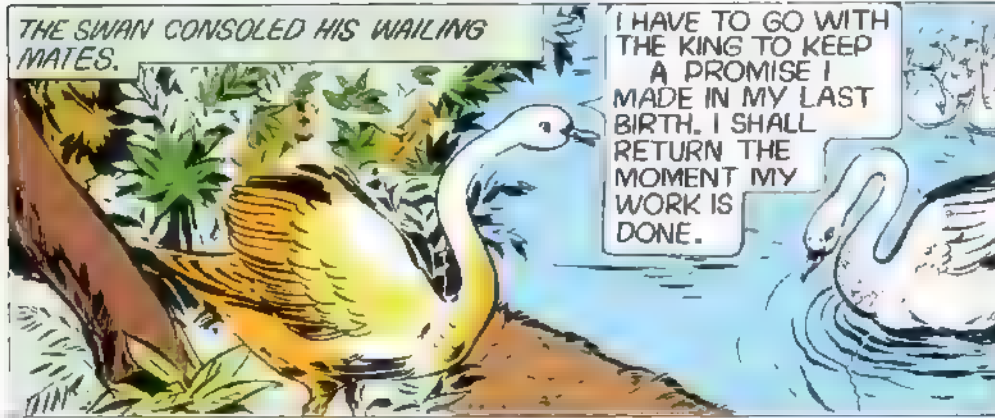
NALA'S COUSIN, PUSHKARA, ENVIED HIM HIS FAME.



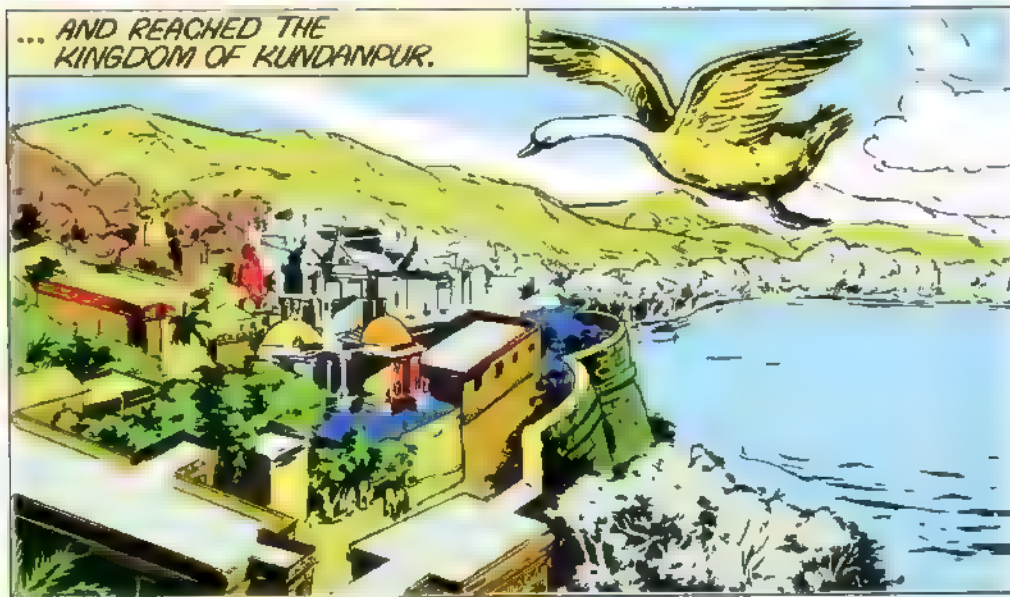
NALA WAS LONELY AND WANDERED FROM PLACE TO PLACE. ONE DAY—



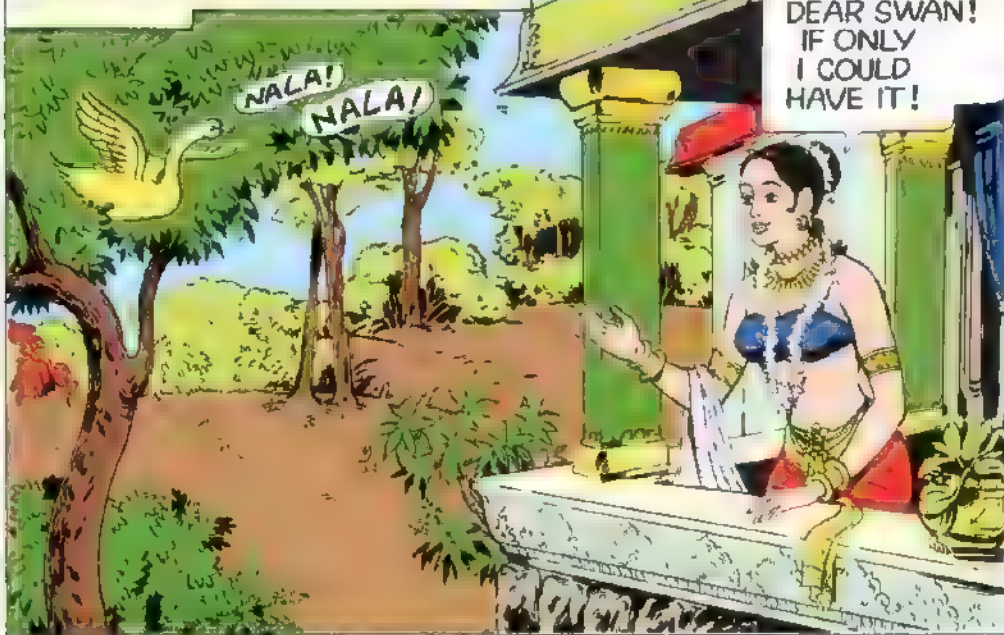






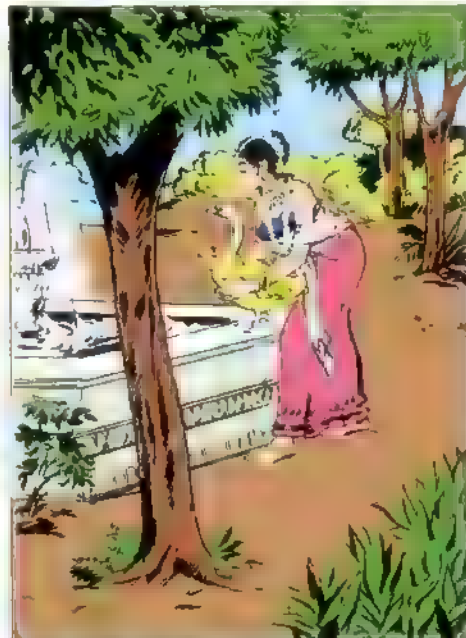
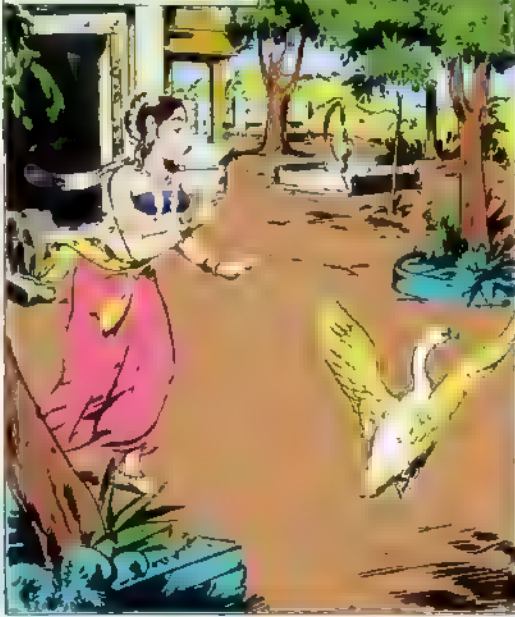


ENTERING THE ROYAL GARDEN,  
IT BEGAN CHANTING NALA'S NAME.  
DAMAYANTI LOOKED UP.



AH!  
WHAT A  
DEAR SWAN!  
IF ONLY  
I COULD  
HAVE IT!

AS DAMAYANTI WENT FORWARD TO  
CATCH THE SWAN, IT MOVED  
FARTHER AWAY.

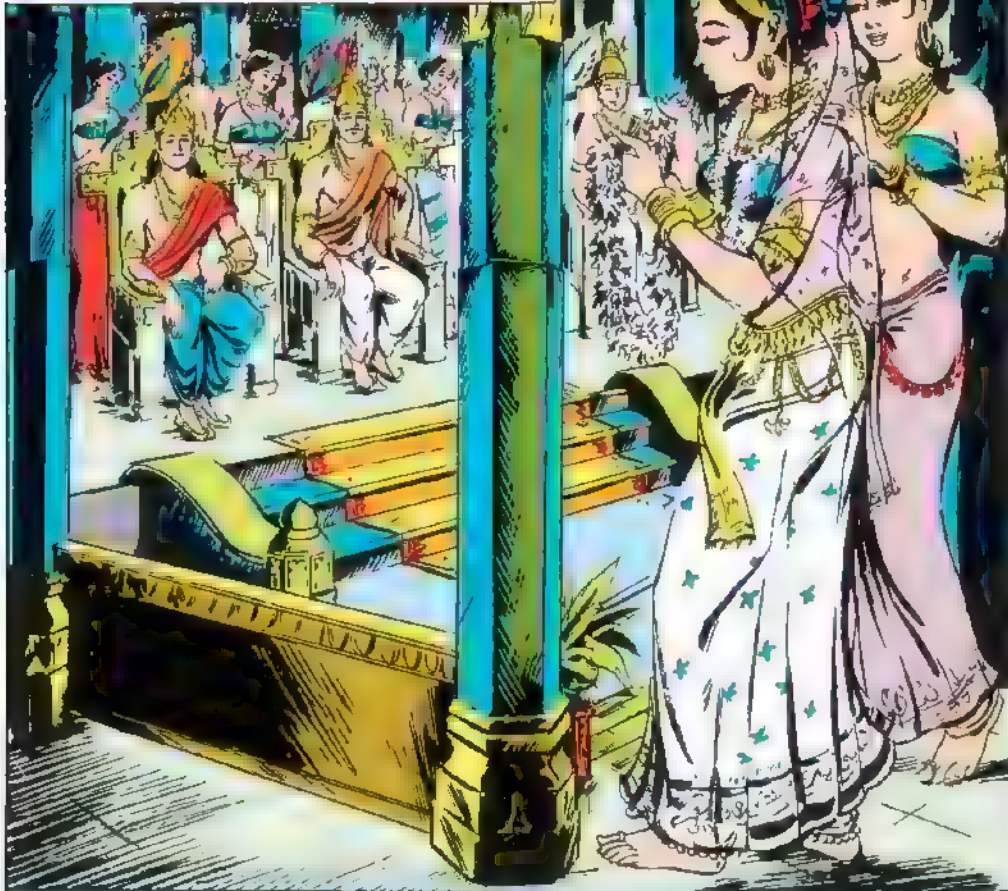


AT LAST, WITH A SWIFT  
MOVEMENT, SHE CAUGHT IT.





NALA WAS SOON INVITED TO  
DAMAYANTI'S SWAYAMVARA.



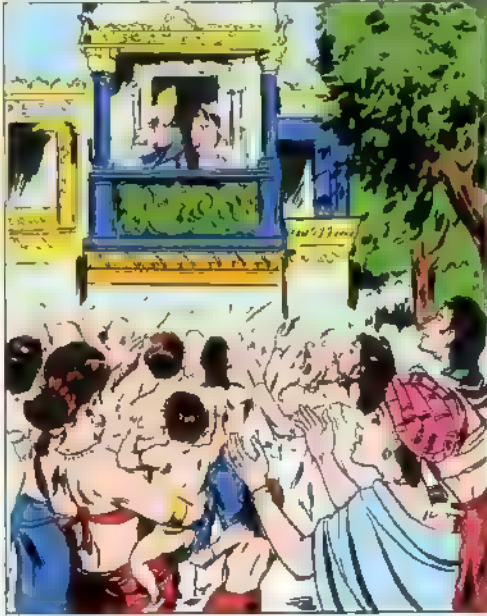
PRINCES FROM FAR AND NEAR HAD GATHERED IN THE SWAYAM-  
VARA HALL. DAMAYANTI ENTERED WITH THE GARLAND.  
THE PRINCES WERE RESTLESS. LITTLE DID THEY KNOW THAT  
DAMAYANTI'S GARLAND WAS MEANT ONLY FOR NALA.

DAMAYANTI GARLANDED NALA.

LONG LIVE KING NALA!



NALA BROUGHT DAMAYANTI TO HIS PALACE. PEOPLE, YOUNG AND OLD, DANCED WITH JOY.



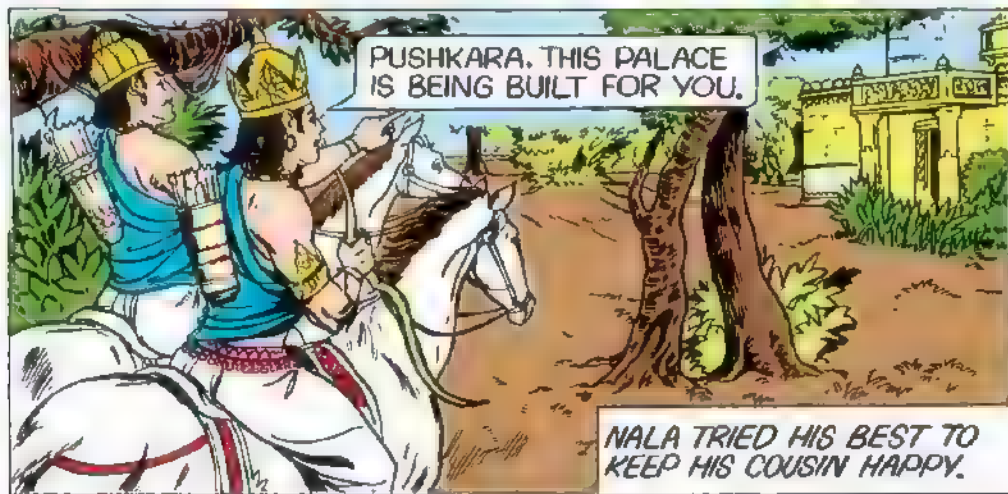
HAPPY TIMES PASS QUICKLY. SOON, TWELVE YEARS WERE OVER. ONE DAY—

WHO ARE YOU?

DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME? I'M PUSHKARA, YOUR COUSIN.









BUT NALA KEPT ON LOSING.

NOW FOR THE LAST ROUND, THE WINNER GETS THE CROWN AND THE LOSER SPENDS THREE YEARS IN THE FOREST-  
AGREED?

AGREED!



THE DICE WERE CAST.

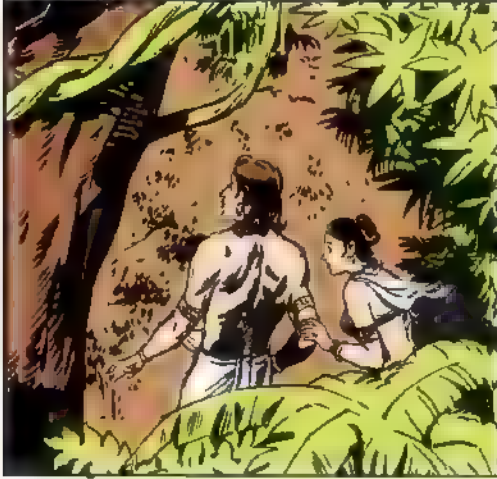
I HAVE WON! HA... HA... HA...!  
I'M THE RULER NOW!



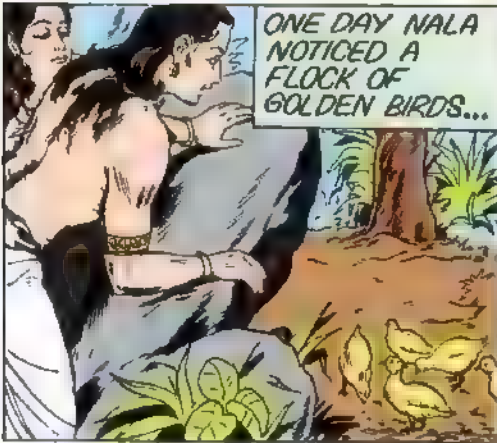
NALA GAVE UP THE KINGDOM. DAMAYANTI SENT THE CHILDREN TO HER PARENTS AND WENT AWAY WITH NALA.



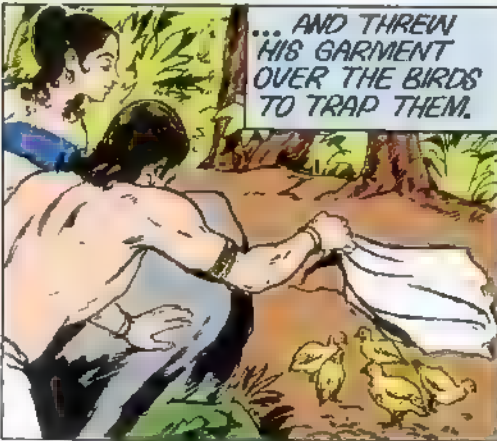
THEY WANDERED IN THE FOREST  
WITHOUT FOOD AND WATER.



ONE DAY NALA  
NOTICED A  
FLOCK OF  
GOLDEN BIRDS...



... AND THREW  
HIS GARMENT  
OVER THE BIRDS  
TO TRAP THEM.



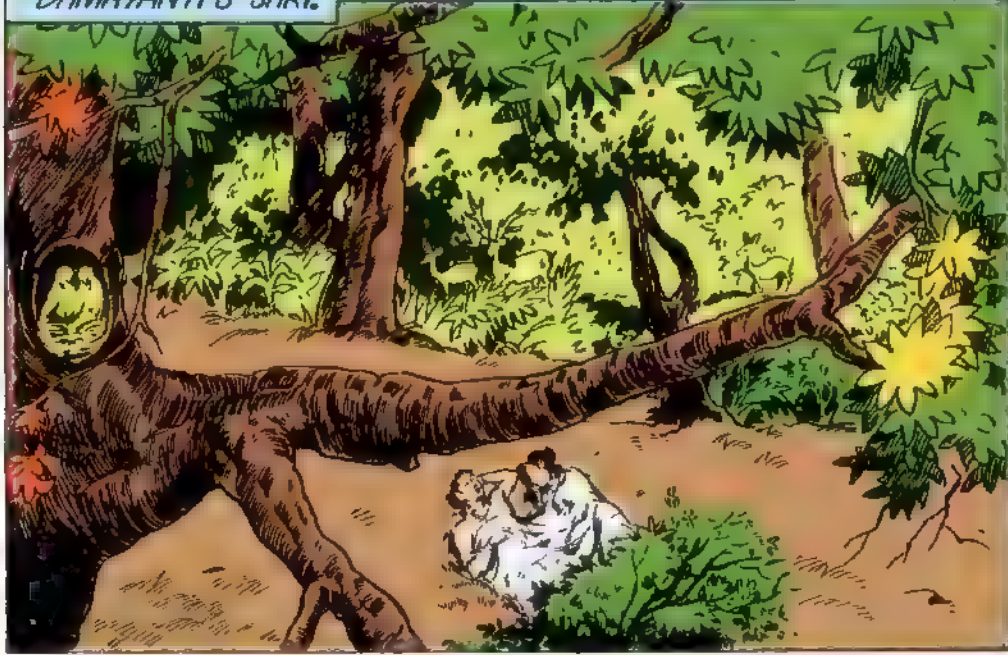
AS HE LEANED FORWARD, THE  
BIRDS FLEW AWAY WITH THE  
GARMENT - NALA'S ONLY  
BELONGING!







AT NIGHT THEY SLEPT ON THE BARE GROUND COVERED BY DAMAYANTI'S SARI.



EARLY NEXT MORNING, WHEN NALA WOKE UP, HE TORE A PIECE FROM DAMAYANTI'S SARI, WRAPPING HIMSELF IN IT, HE QUIETLY WALKED AWAY.



HE WALKED FOR A LONG TIME.  
SUDDENLY—



NALA JUMPED INTO THE FIRE.

A LITTLE LATER—





NALA WALKED TEN STEPS AND—

OH!  
SERPENT  
GOD, WHAT  
HAVE YOU  
DONE?

I CHANGED YOUR  
FORM SO THAT  
YOU WON'T BE  
RECOGNISED.  
YOU'RE BAAHUK  
FROM TODAY.



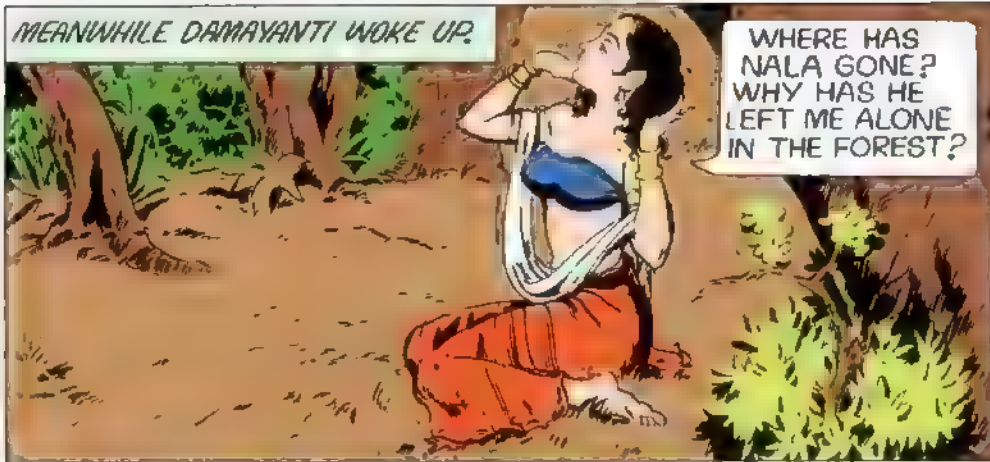
KING RITUPARNA OF  
AYODHYA IS VERY  
GOOD AT THE  
GAME OF DICE.  
GO TO HIM IF  
YOU WISH TO  
KNOW THE  
SECRET OF  
THE GAME!



AND, PUT ON  
THIS MAGIC  
DRESS WHEN  
YOU WANT  
TO BECOME  
YOUR OLD SELF.







IT CAUGHT DAMAYANTI'S LEG.

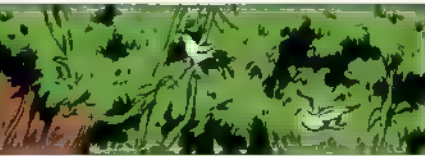


SUDDENLY A HUNTER'S ARROW HIT AND KILLED THE PYTHON.

THEN -

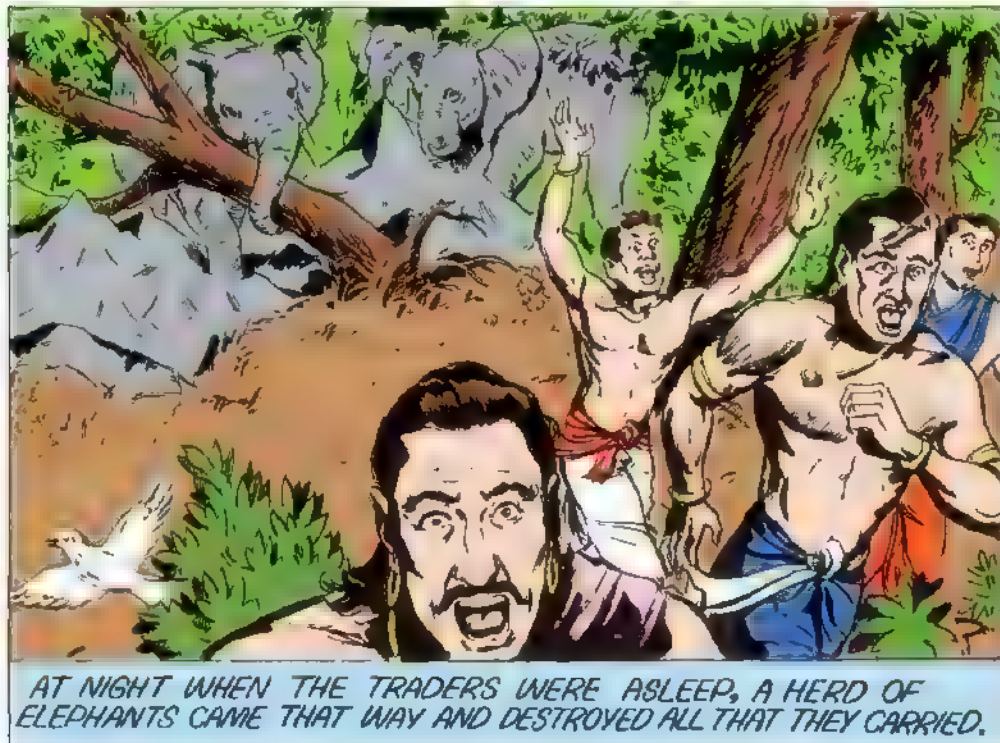
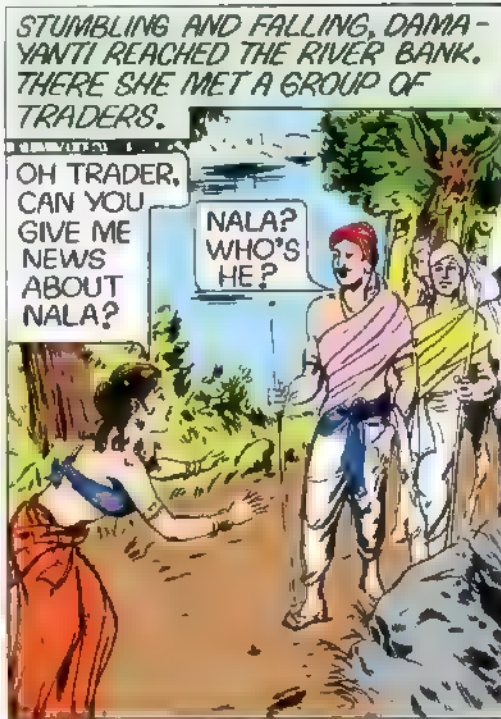


WHO ARE YOU?  
A GODDESS?  
A HEAVENLY  
DAMSEL?  
MARRY ME!

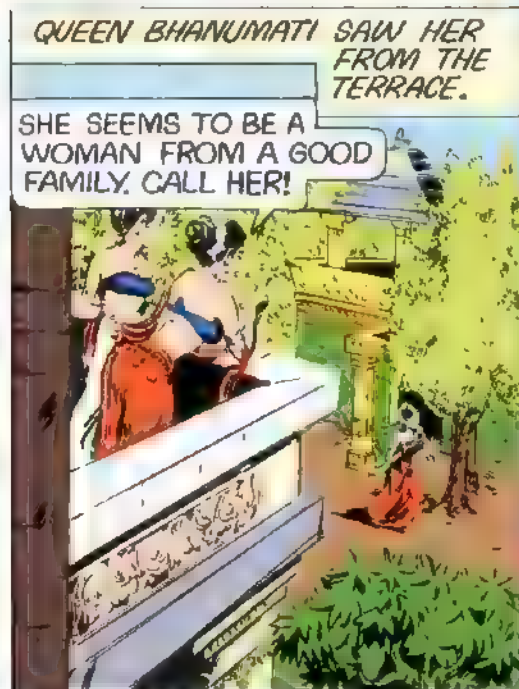
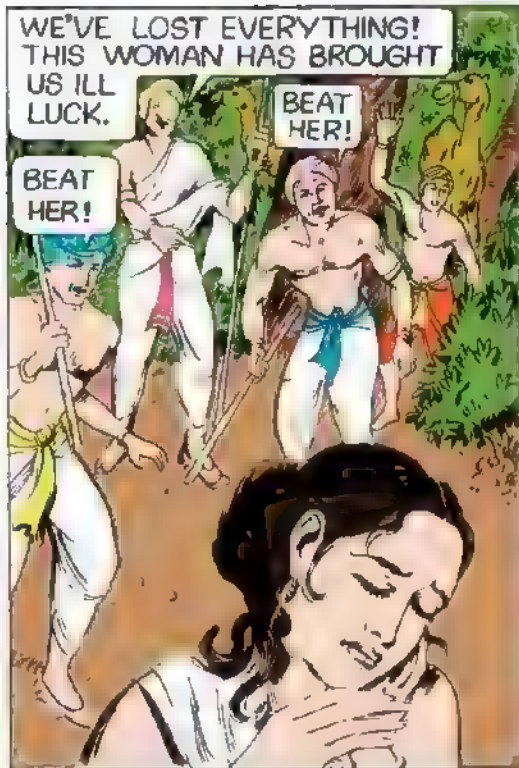


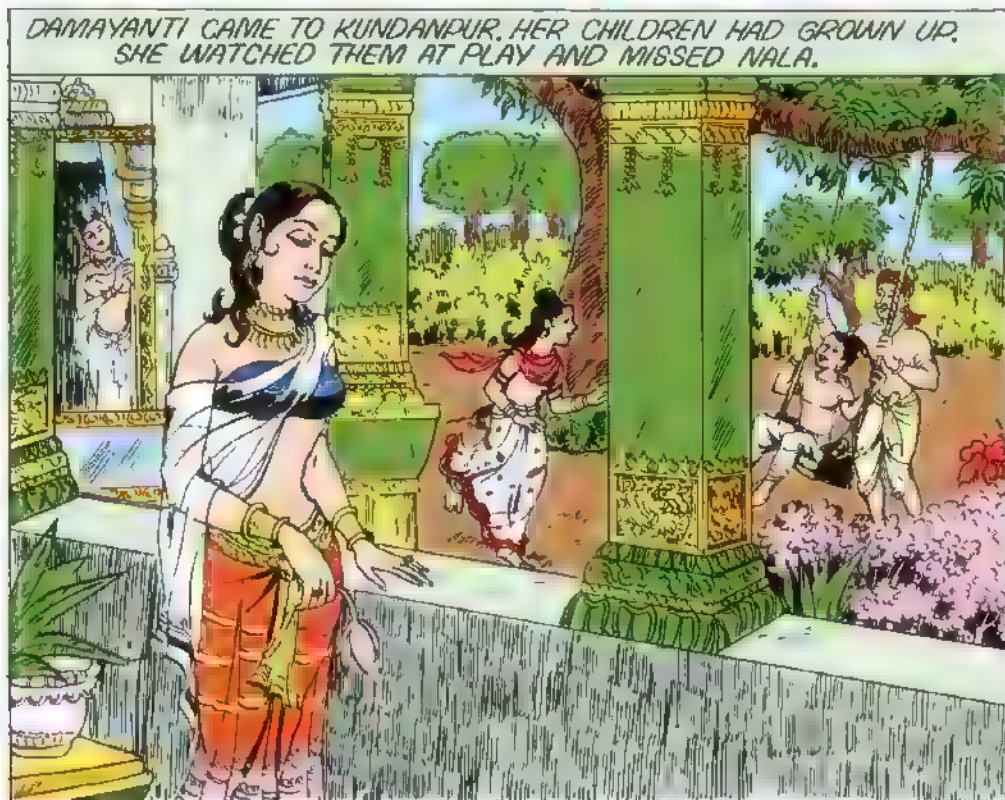
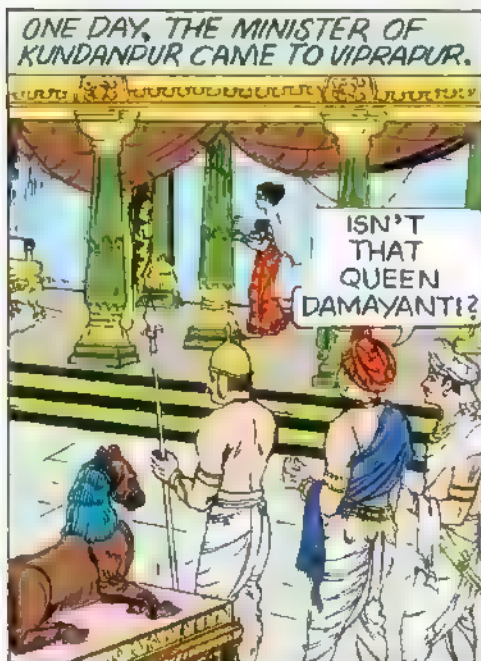
OH, MY MISFORTUNE!  
I WISH THE PYTHON  
HAD KILLED ME...!  
STAY WHERE YOU  
ARE, IF YOU TAKE  
ONE STEP FURTHER,  
YOU WILL BE BURNT.



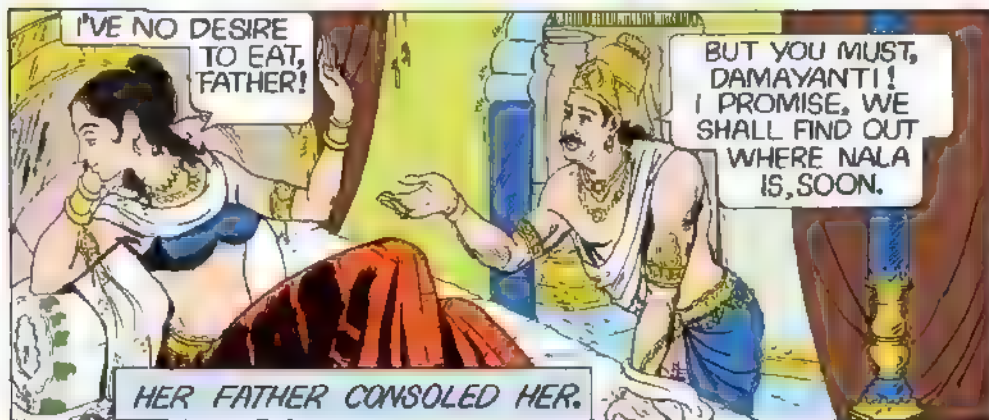
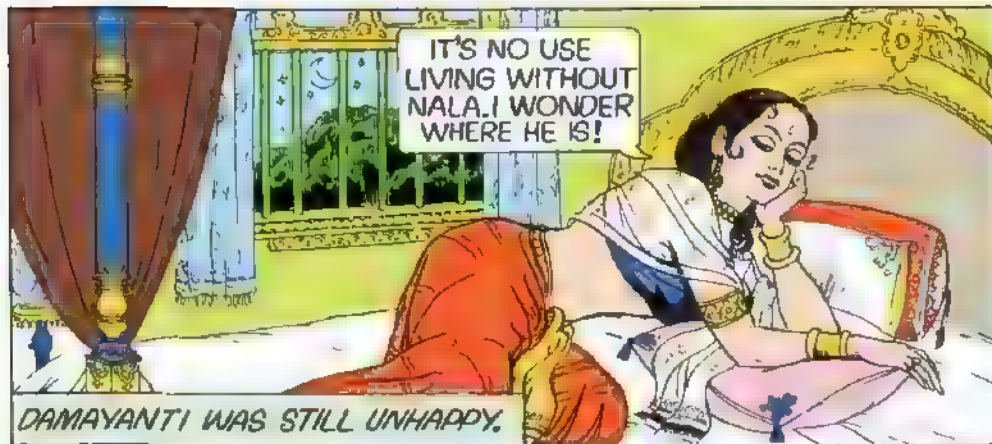




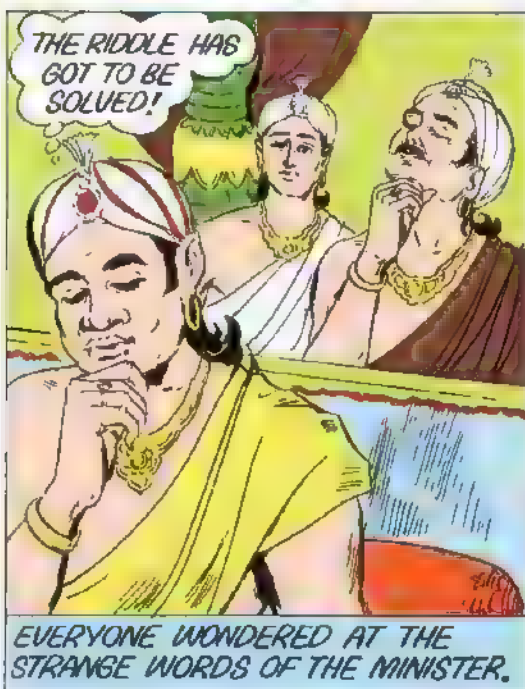
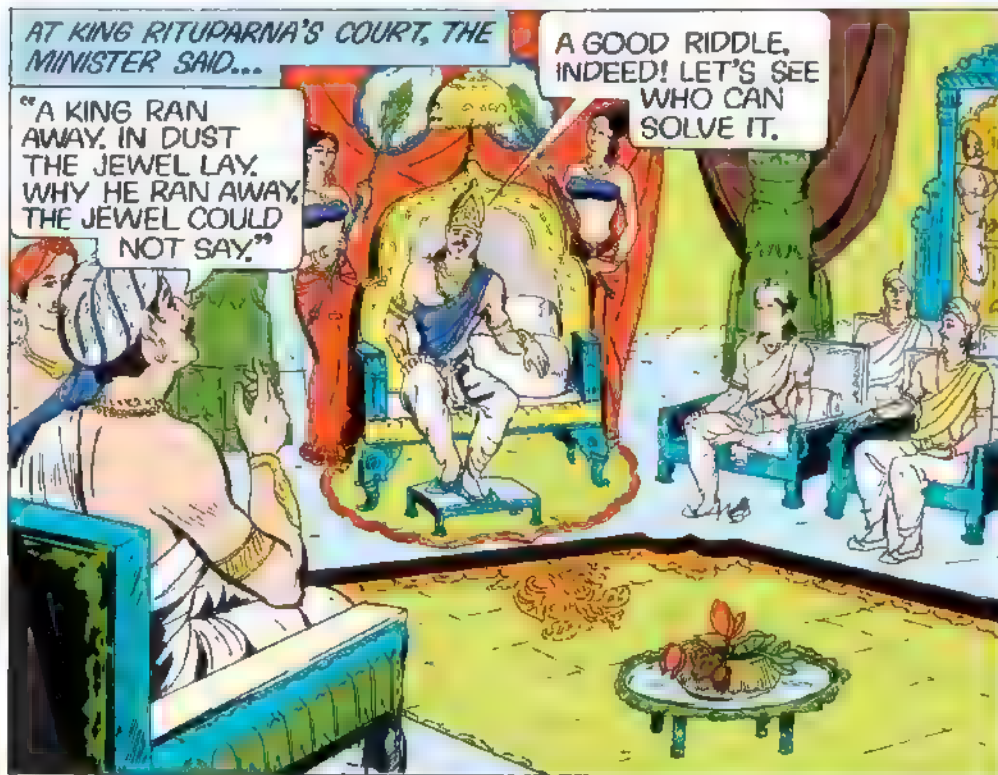


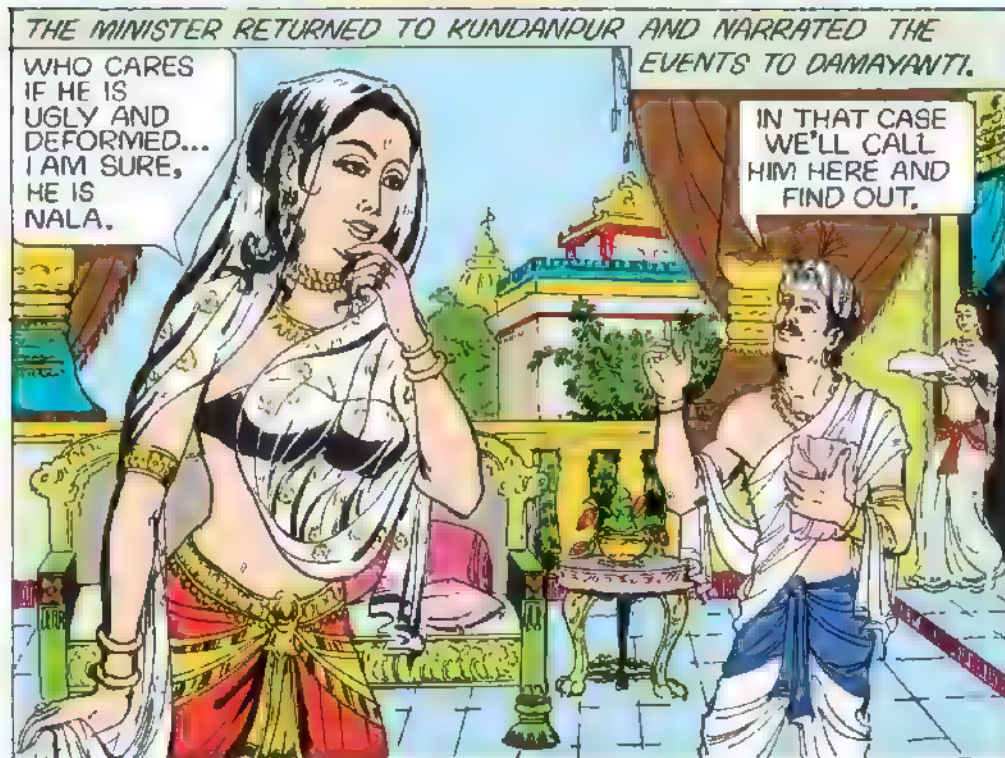
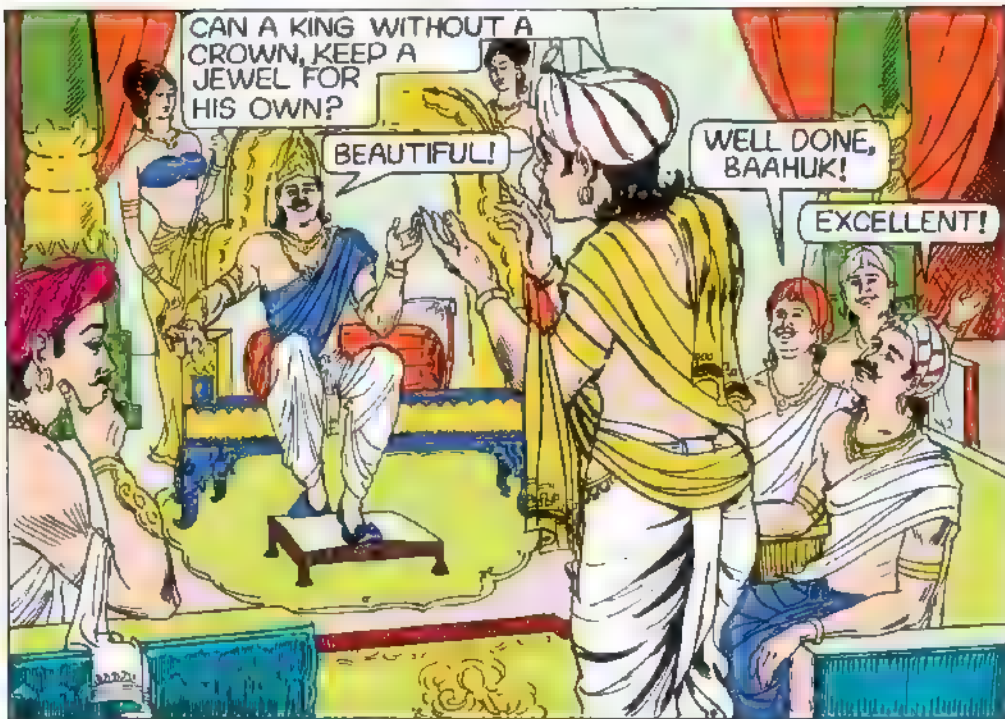












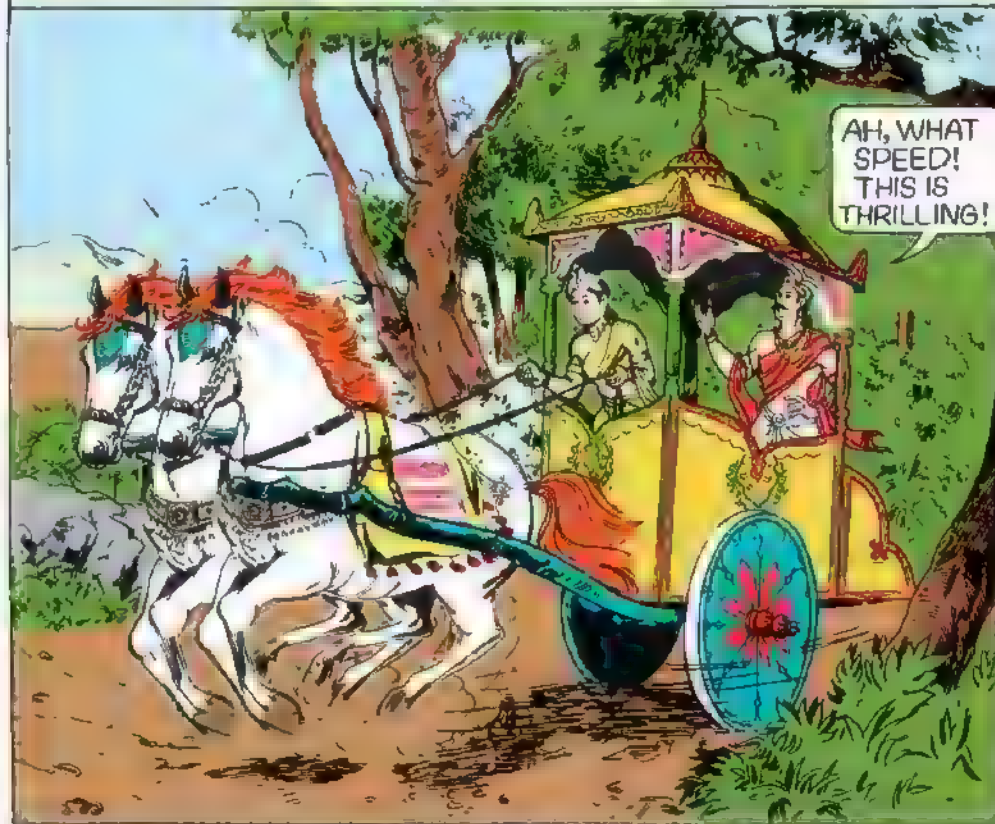
THE MINISTER AGAIN WENT TO AYODHYA.







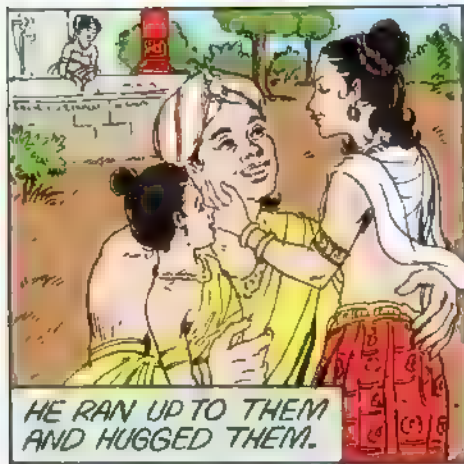
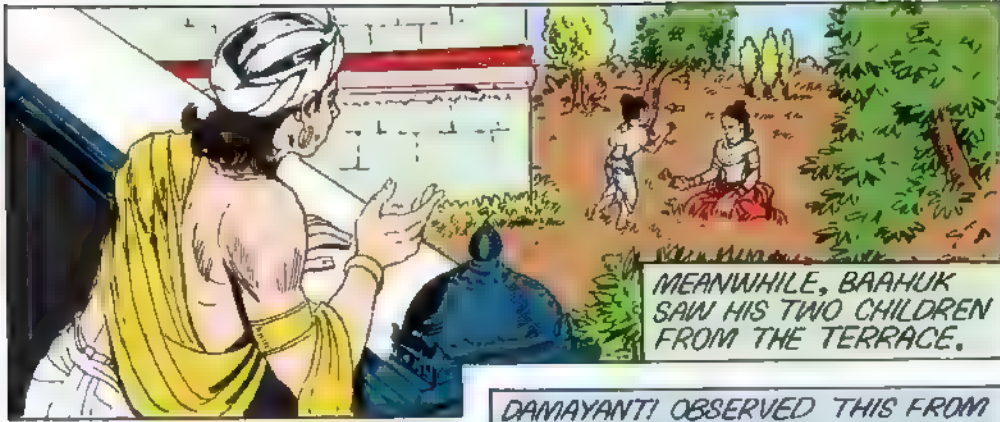
AND SURELY ENOUGH, THE HORSES SEEMED TO FLY IN THE AIR. NALA WAS A GREAT CHARIOTEER.





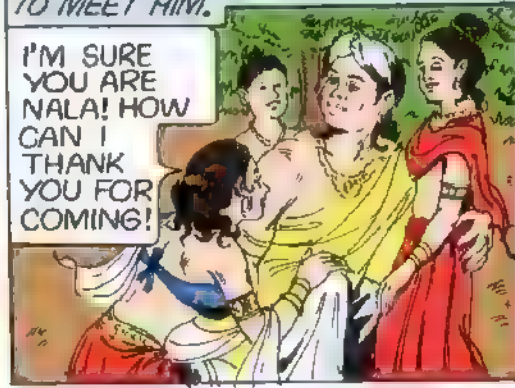
BY THE TIME THEY REACHED KUNDANPUR, THEY HAD EXCHANGED THEIR SECRETS.





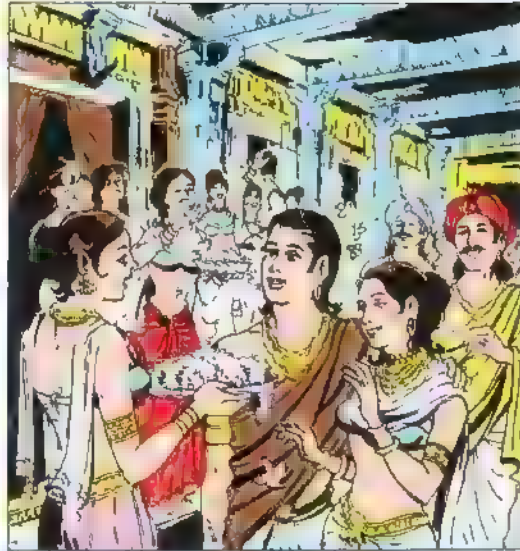
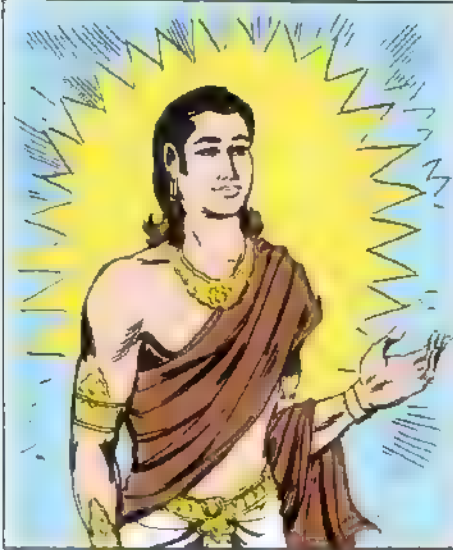
DAMAYANTI OBSERVED THIS FROM THE PALACE. SHE CAME RUNNING TO MEET HIM.

I'M SURE YOU ARE NALA! HOW CAN I THANK YOU FOR COMING!



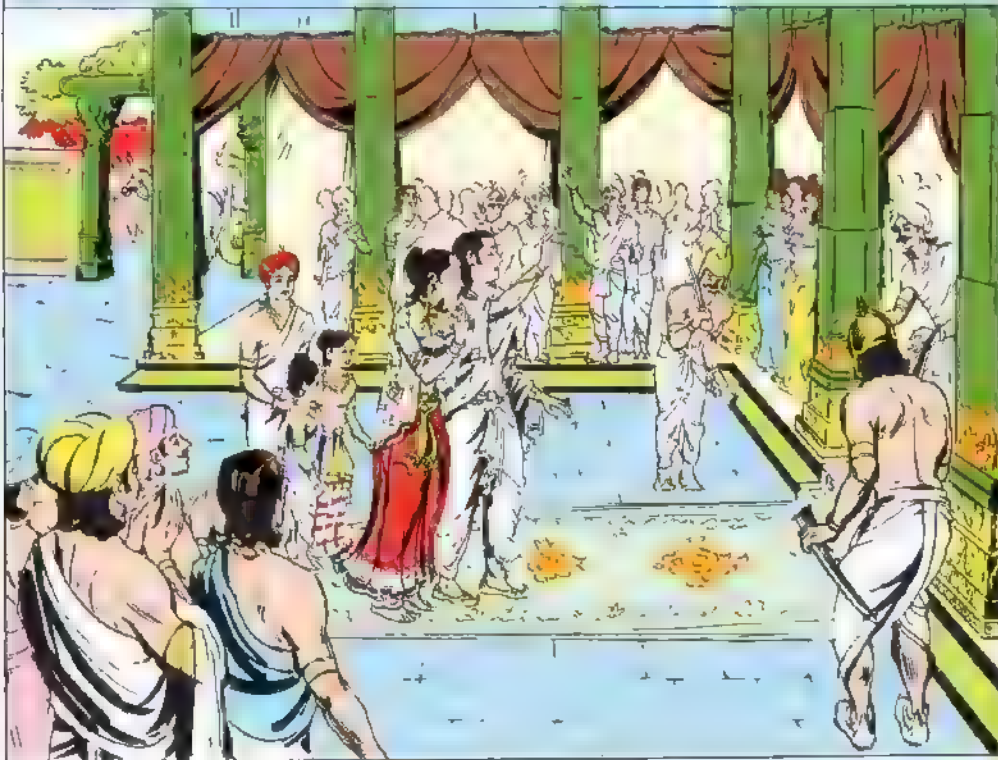


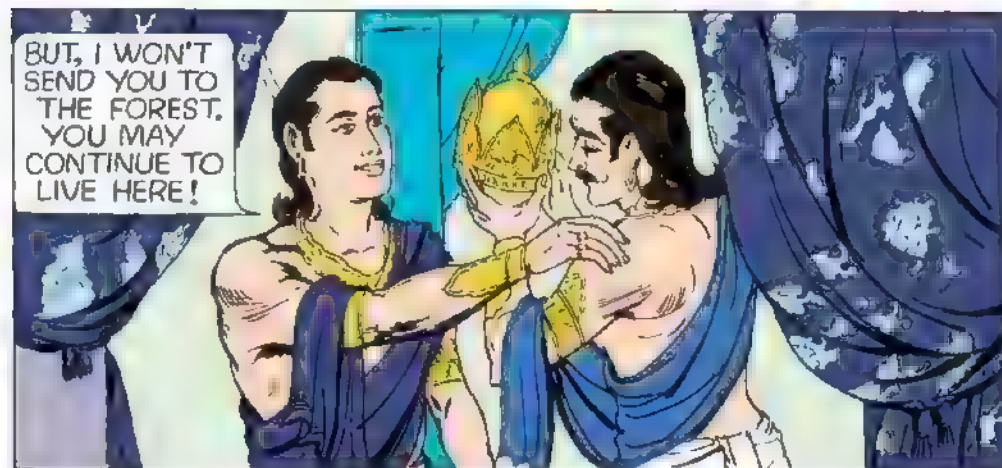
NALA PUT ON THE  
MAGIC DRESS AND -



SEEING NALA SAFE AND SOUND, THE  
PEOPLE WENT CRAZY WITH JOY.

NALA RETURNED TO HIS PALACE WITH DAMAYANTI AND THE CHILDREN.









ONCE AGAIN, NALA WORE THE CROWN. DAMAYANTI WAS HIS QUEEN. THEY LIVED HAPPILY FOR MANY YEARS AND RULED THE COUNTRY WELL.





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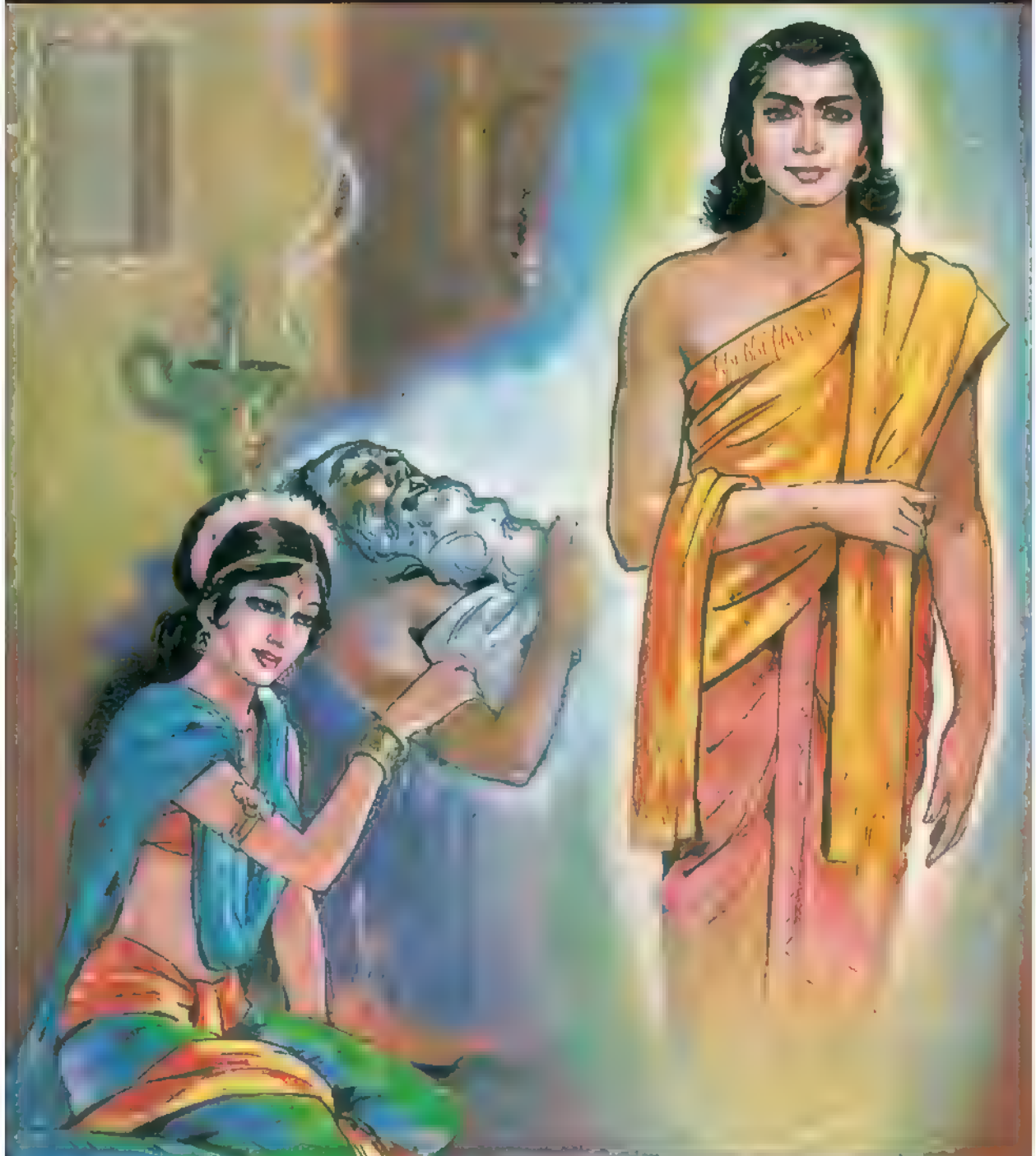
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# KACHA AND DEVAYANI

STAR-CROSSED LOVERS





The route to your roots

## KACHA AND DEVAYANI

While the war was raging between the devas and asuras, the devas sent Kacha to the preceptor of the asuras. Kacha approached the asura guru as a student. It was in this background of hate, war and rivalry that the beautiful Devayani, the proud daughter, of the asura guru, fell in love with Kacha, the man who was being watched by the asuras with increasing suspicion – they knew Kacha was seeking the key to immortality from their guru. Then a twist in the tale throws the dreams of the young couple into disarray.

Script  
Kamala Chandrakant

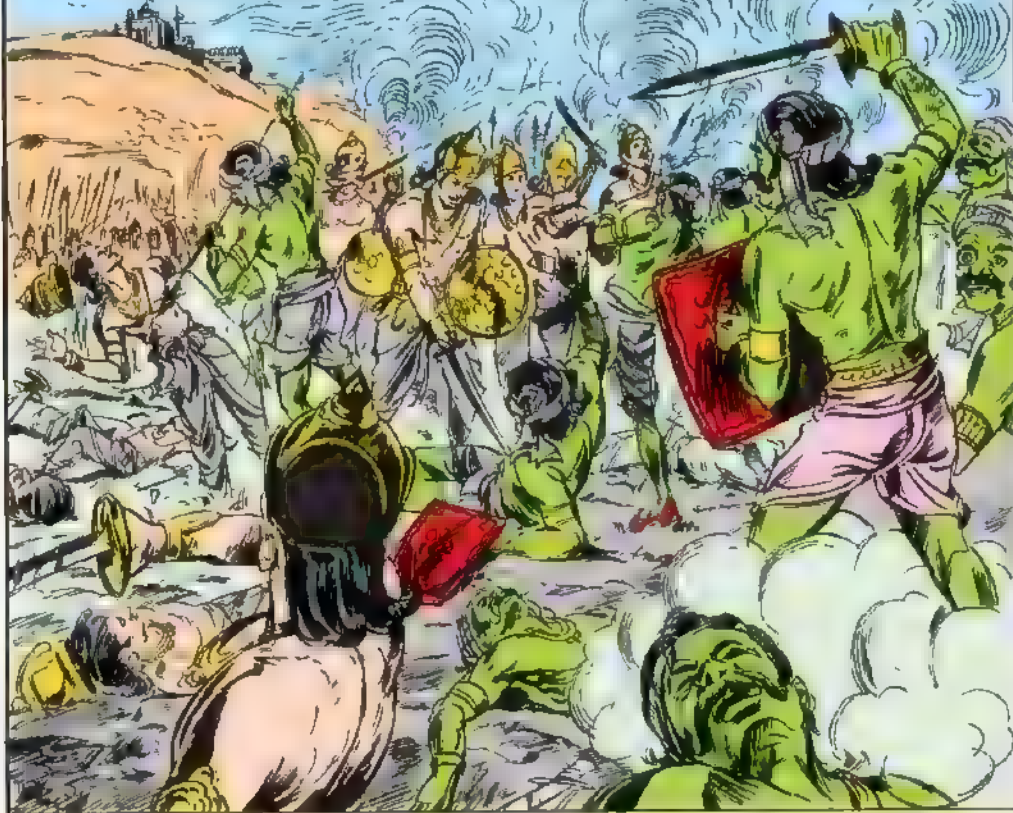
Illustrations  
Souren Roy

Editor  
Anant Pai

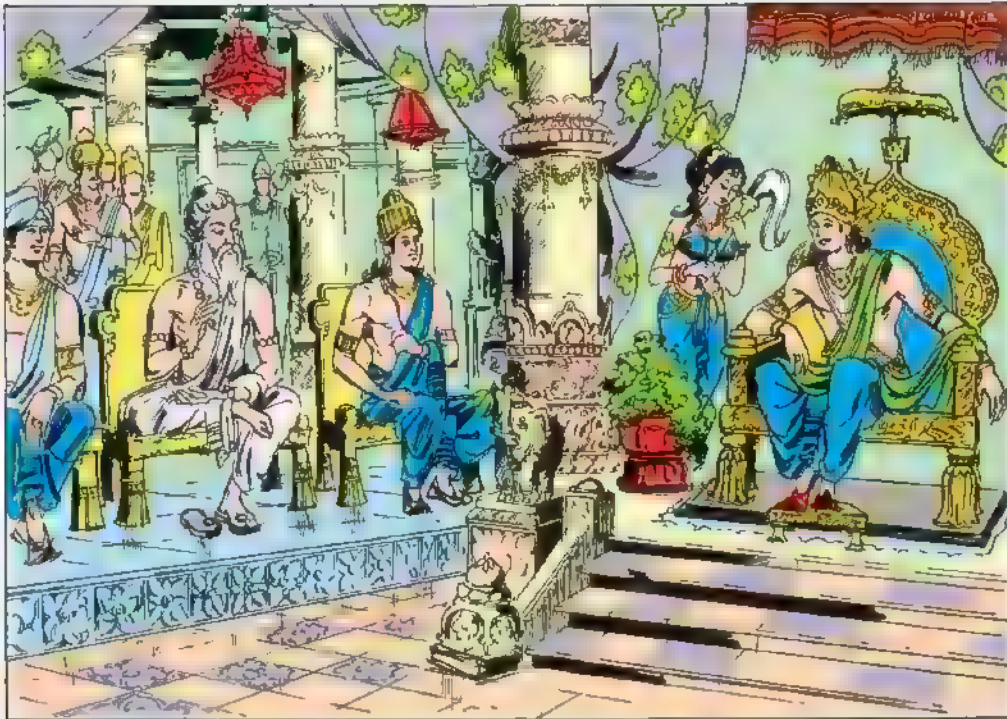
*Cover illustration by: Dayal Patkar*



# KACHA DEVAYANI



IN THE DAYS OF YORE, THE DEVAS AND THE ASURAS WERE EVER  
STRUGGLING FOR THE LORDSHIP OF THE THREE WORLDS.

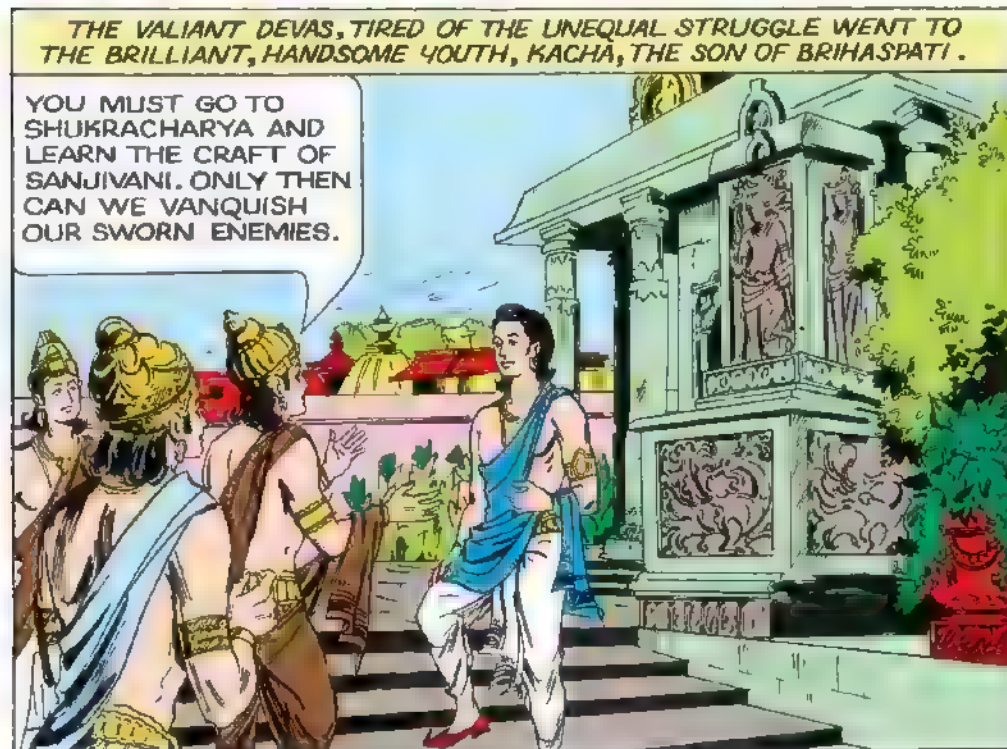


BOTH HAD WISE MEN TO GUIDE THEM. BRIHASPATI, THE SON OF SAGE ANGIRAS, LIVED IN THE ABODE OF INDRA, KING OF THE DEVAS.



AND SHUKRACHARYA THE FAVOURITE PUPIL OF SAGE ANGIRAS, LIVED IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF THE ASURA KING, VRISHADARVA.







THE OBEDIENT AND DUTIFUL KACHA IMMEDIATELY SET OUT TO MEET SHUKRACHARYA.



THERE HE HUMBLY PRESENTED HIMSELF BEFORE THE GREAT WISE ONE.



SHUKRACHARYA GAVE HIM A WARM WELCOME.

I ACCEPT YOU AS MY PUPIL, O WORTHY KACHA, SON OF LEARNED BRIHASPATI.



KACHA AND DEVAYANI



SHUKRACHARYA HAD A DAUGHTER, DEVAYANI, WHOM HE LOVED DEARLY.

COME DEVAYANI, MY CHILD. MEET THE WORTHY KACHA, WHO HAS VOWED TO BE MY PUPIL TILL THE PERIOD OF HIS STUDIES IS OVER.

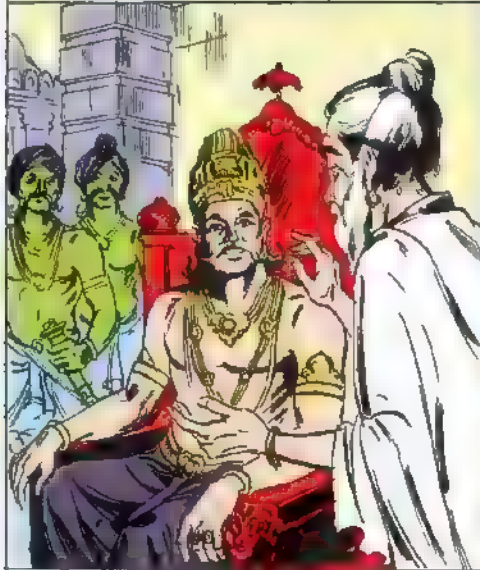


ALL LEARNING IN THOSE DAYS WAS HANDED DOWN BY WORD OF MOUTH. THE PUPIL LIVED WITH HIS GURU'S FAMILY AS ONE OF HIS HOUSEHOLD. IN RETURN FOR HIS EDUCATION, HE SERVED HIS GURU WITH LOVE AND DEVOTION.





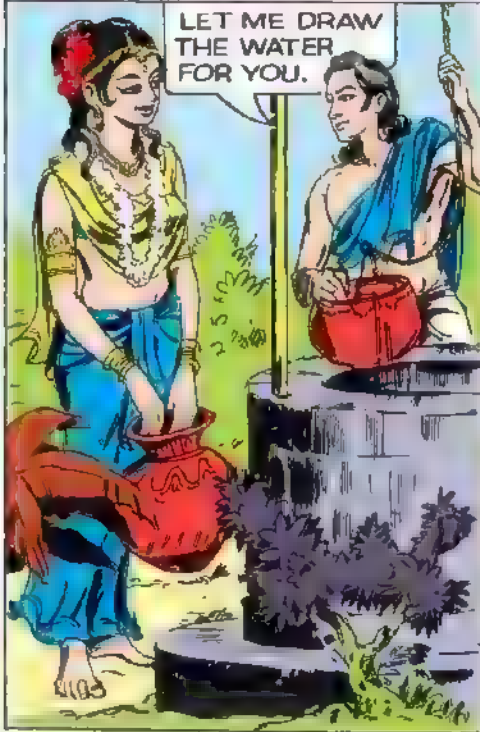
BUT MOST OF THE DAY  
SHUKRACHARYA WAS EITHER BUSY  
AT COURT...



...OR DEEP IN MEDITATION.



SO KACHA HELPED DEVAYANI  
WITH HER DAILY CHORES.

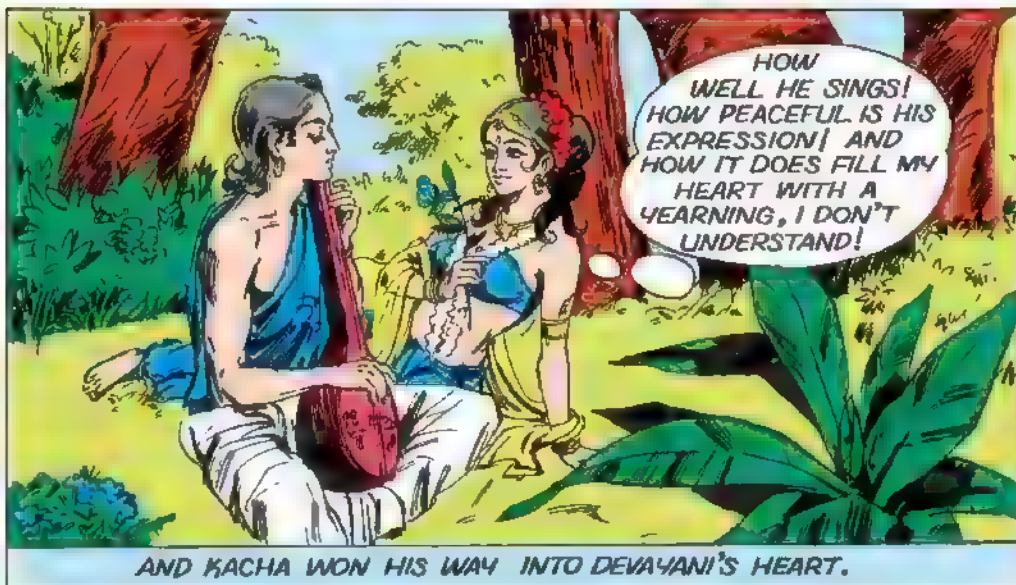
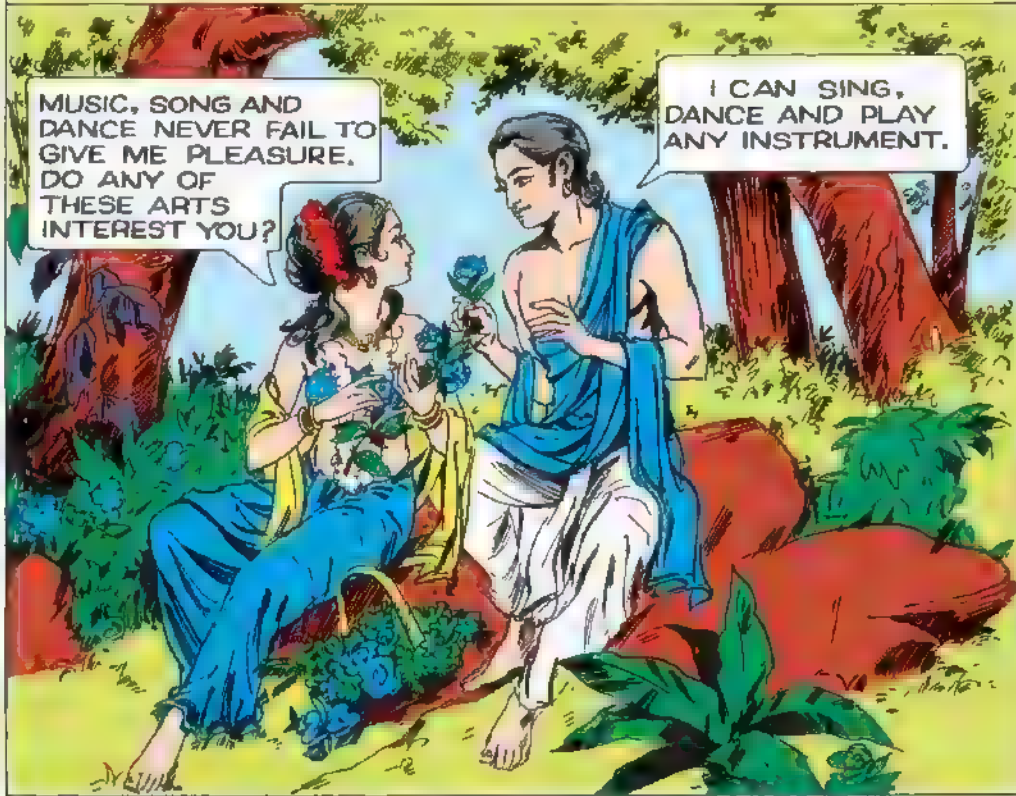


AND TENDERLY FULFILLED HER  
SLIGHTEST WISH.

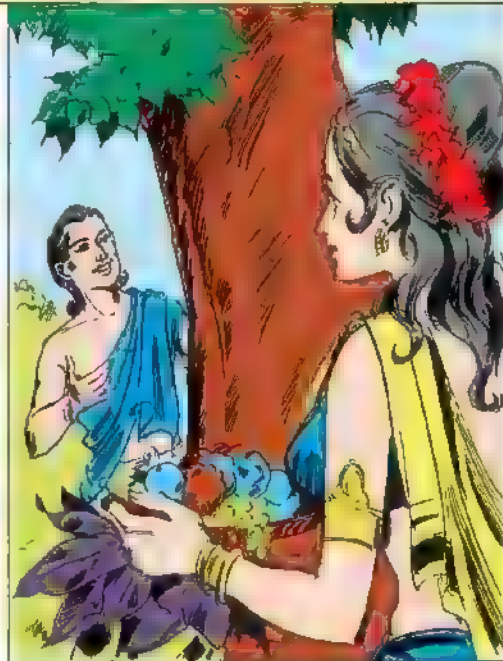




WITHIN A FEW DAYS OF HIS ARRIVAL, KACHA FOUND HIMSELF SPENDING ALL HIS LEISURE HOURS IN THE COMPANY OF THE LIVELY DEVAYANI.



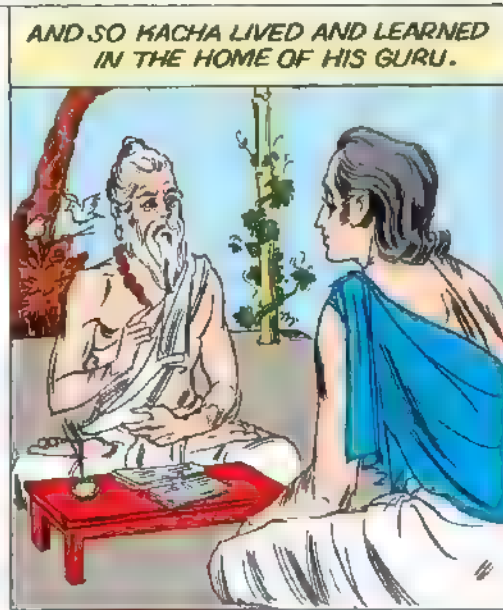
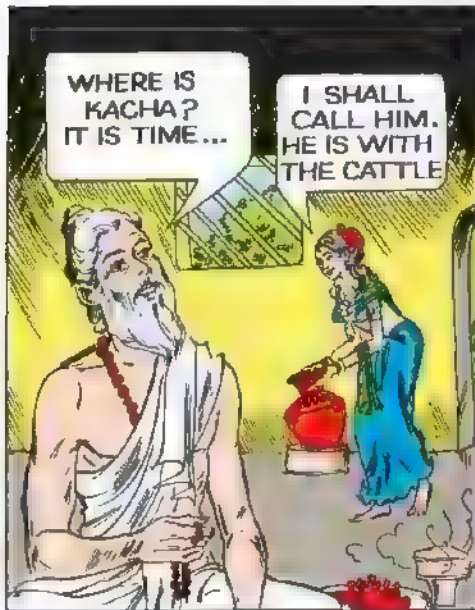
ONCE TO TEASE HER, KACHA HID HIMSELF AMONG THE TREES.



BUT DEVAYANI COULD NOT EVEN  
PRETEND TO BE ANGRY FOR LONG.









ALL THE ASURAS ROSE AS ONE ROARING ANGRILY.



WAIT! PATIENCE!  
WE SHALL HAVE  
TO DO THIS IN  
SECRECY. A GURU  
WILL NOT LET  
HIS PUPIL BE  
SLAIN.



THE ASURAS WAITED, BUT  
IMPATIENTLY. THEN ONE DAY -



THE ASURAS FELL UPON HIM AND SLEW HIM.



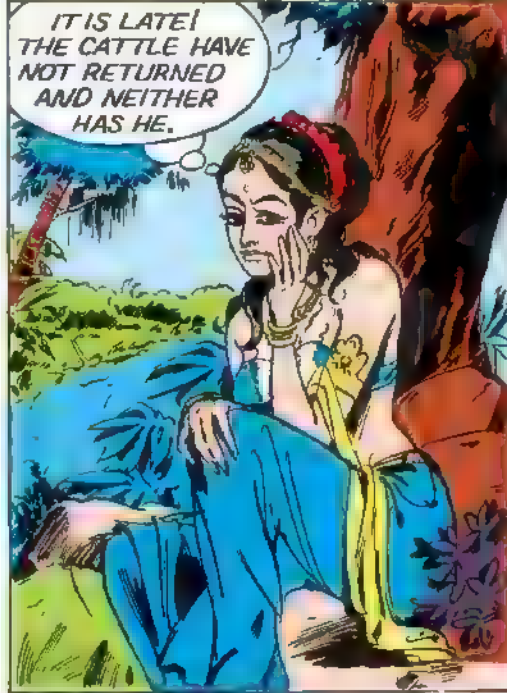
THEY CUT HIM INTO PIECES.



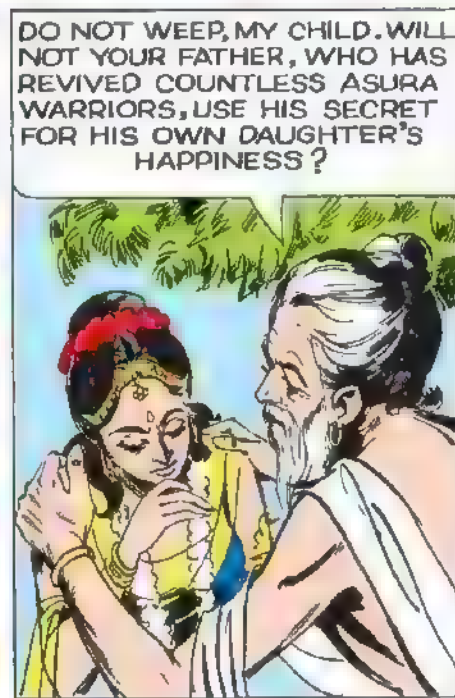
AND FED HIS FLESH TO THEIR DOGS.



AS USUAL DEVAYANI WAITED FOR HIM.

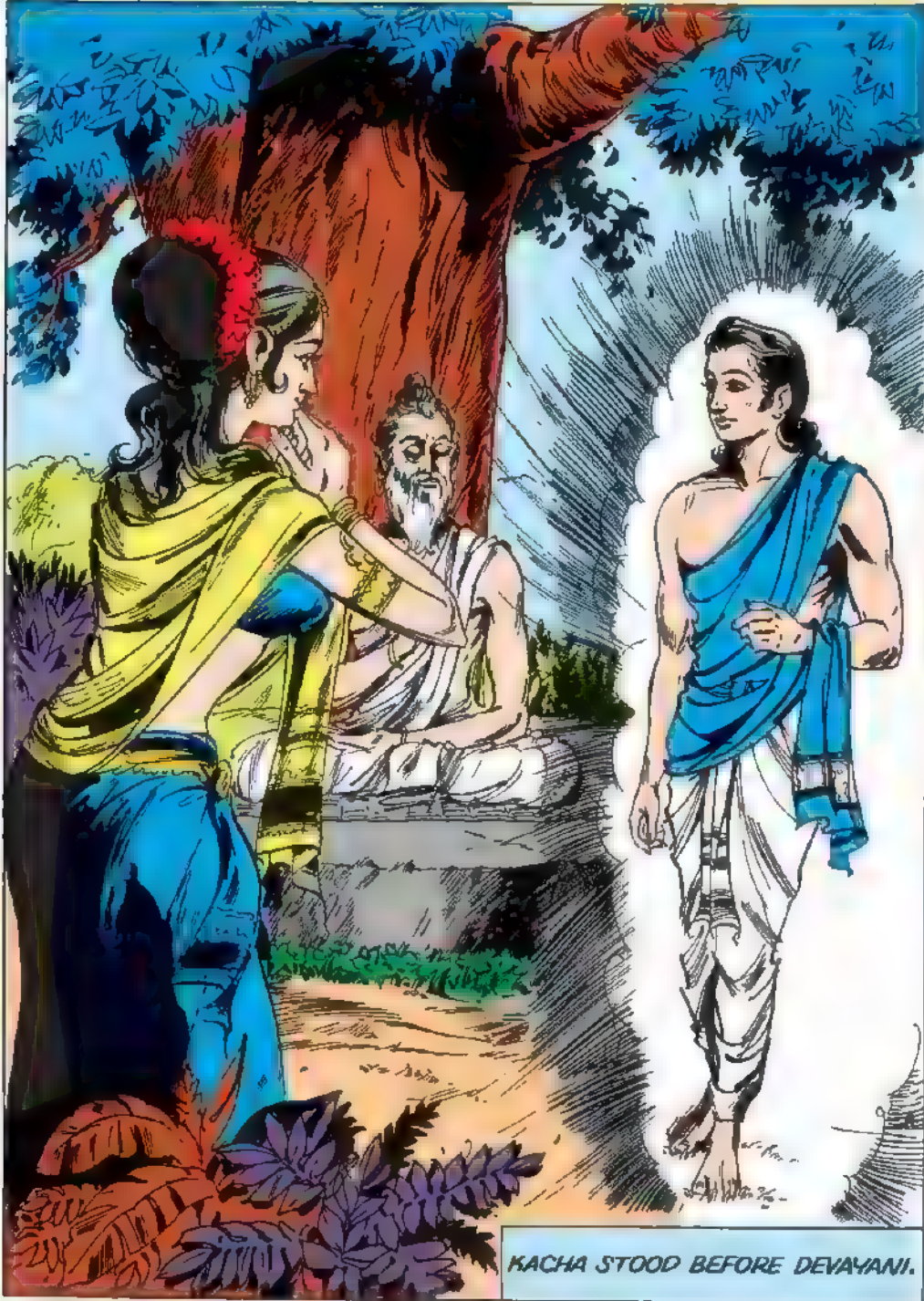




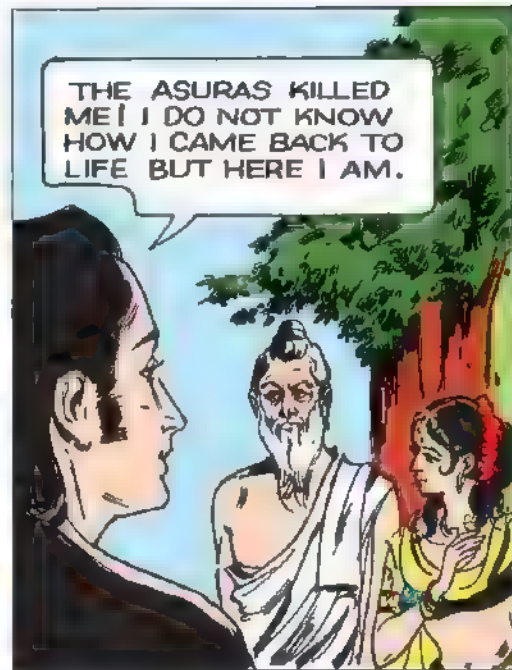




*SHUMRACHARYA CLOSED HIS EYES AND LO!*



*KACHA STOOD BEFORE DEVAYANI.*



KACHA CONTINUED LIVING IN THE HOME OF HIS GURU. ONE DAY -

LONG AGO, WHILE WALKING DEEP IN THE FOREST WITH MY FATHER, I HAD SEEN SOME FLOWERS. THEIR PERFUME STILL LINGERS IN MY MEMORY. KACHA, WILL YOU BRING SOME FOR ME? THEY BLOOM ONLY IN THIS SEASON.



KACHA COULD HARDLY REFUSE THE ENCHANTING DEVAYANI SUCH A REQUEST.



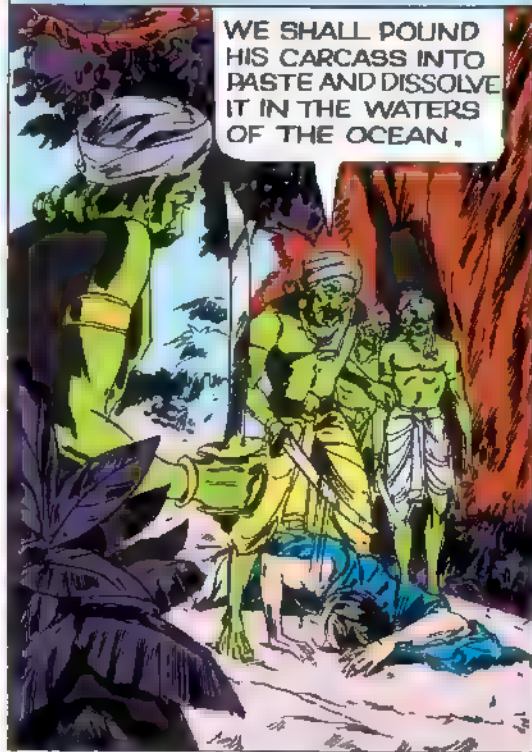
SO HE WANDERED DEEP INTO THE FOREST IN SEARCH OF THE FLOWERS.  
THE ASURAS WERE WAITING FOR JUST SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY.



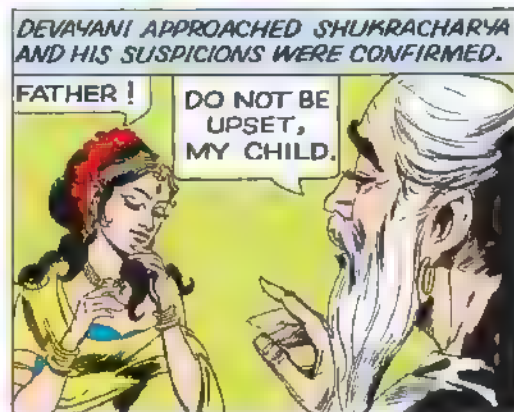
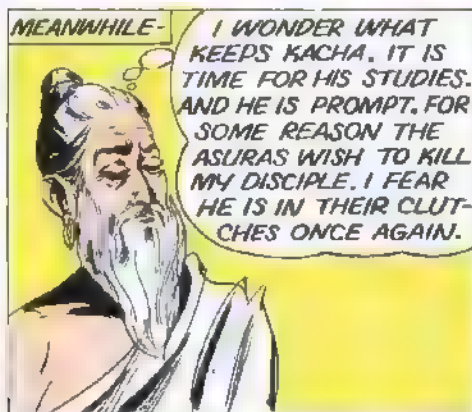
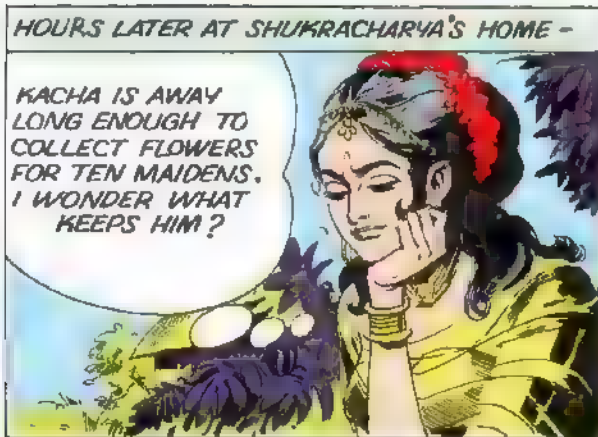
THEY WAYLAID HIM AND SLEW HIM.

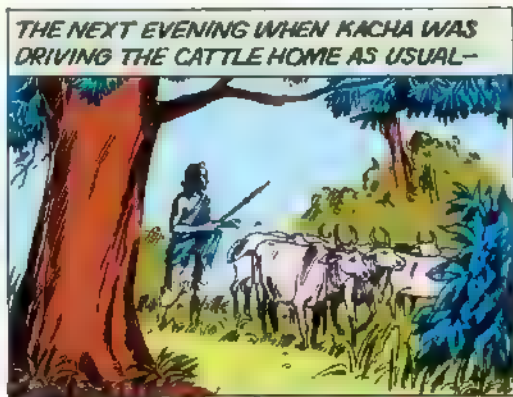
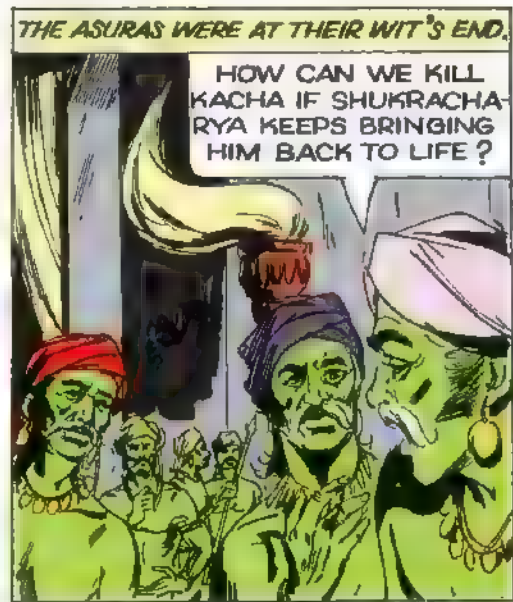
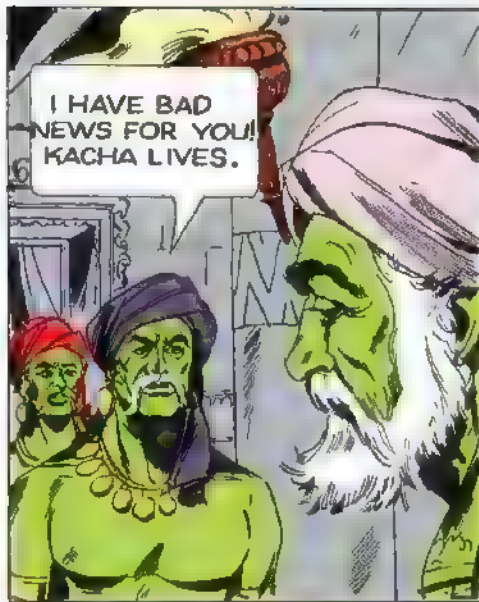


THIS TIME THEY CARRIED HIS BODY  
TO A LONELY SPOT. THERE -



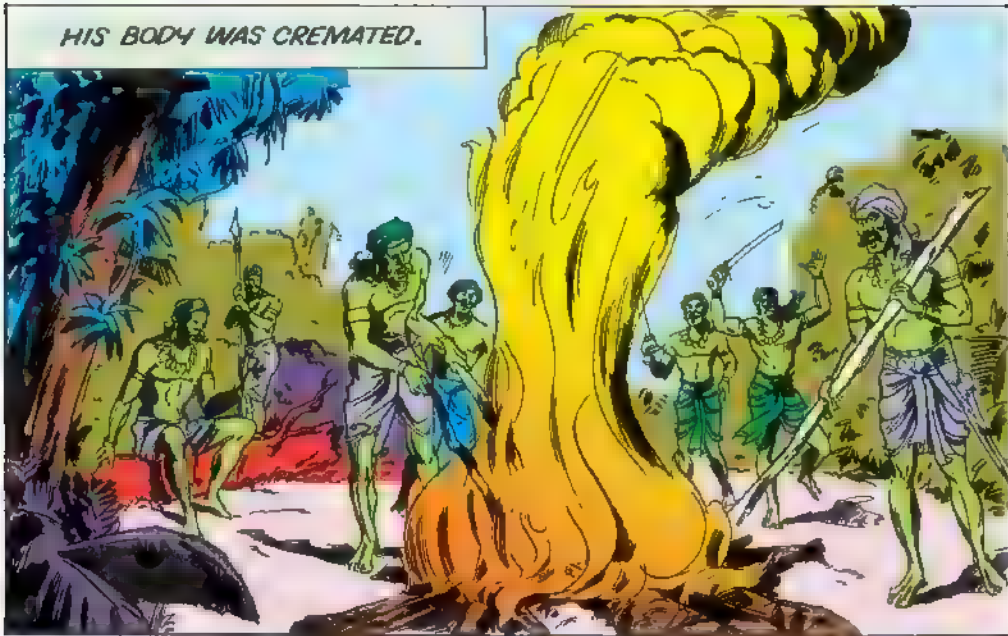




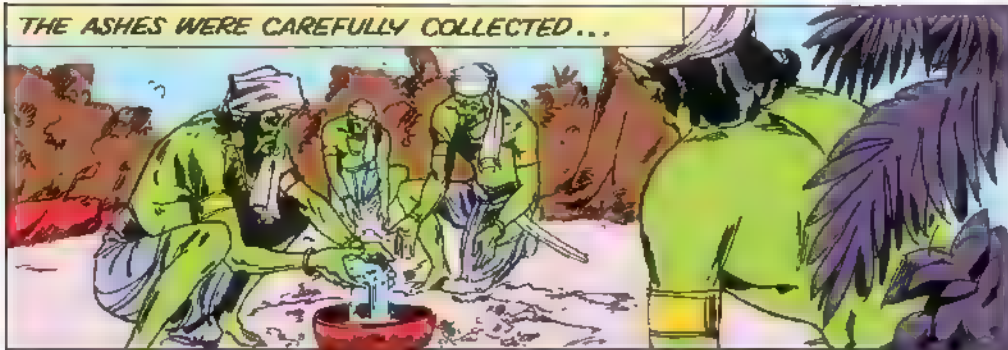




HIS BODY WAS CREMATED.



THE ASHES WERE CAREFULLY COLLECTED...



... AND MIXED INTO A GOBLET OF WINE.



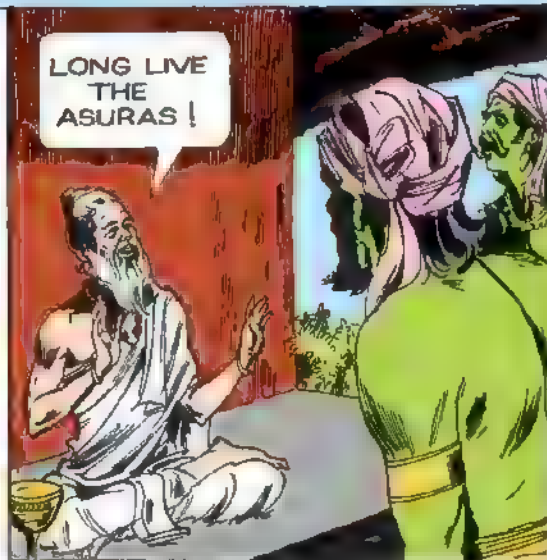


THE GREYING ASURA THEN TOOK THE GOBLET OF WINE TO SHUKRACHARYA.

O WISE ONE !  
WE BRING YOU  
THIS HUMBLE GIFT  
IN GRATITUDE FOR  
KEEPING OUR  
NUMBERS  
CONSTANT.



IF SHUKRACHARYA HAD A WEAKNESS IT WAS FOR WINE. HE EMPTIED THE CONTENTS OF THE GOBLET IN ONE GULP.



LONG LIVE  
THE  
ASURAS !

DEVAYANI WAITED IN VAIN FOR KACHA.



OH KACHA!  
HOW MANY MORE  
DEATHS WILL YOU  
HAVE TO DIE  
BEFORE THE ASURAS  
LEAVE YOU ALONE?  
WILL YOU EVER  
BE MINE?

THE CATTLE RETURNED HOME ONCE MORE WITHOUT KACHA.



FATHER!  
WITHOUT KACHA  
I AM AS GOOD AS  
DEAD. PLEASE  
BRING HIM BACK  
TO LIFE.

SHUKRACHARYA KNEW THE FUTILITY OF RECALLING KACHA FROM THE DEAD.



WHAT GOOD WILL IT SERVE, IF I BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE ONCE MORE? THE ASURAS ARE BENT UPON KILLING HIM. A WISE SOUL LIKE YOU SHOULD NOT GRIEVE AT A LOVED ONE'S DEATH, YOU ARE YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL AND YOU HAVE YOUR LIFE TO LIVE.

BUT DEVAYANI'S LOVE FOR KACHA KNEW NO REASONING.

KACHA WAS A GOOD PUPIL AND LOYAL TO US. I LOVED HIM DEARLY AND NOW THAT HE IS DEAD, I DO NOT WISH TO LIVE.



PLEASE, FATHER, I DON'T WANT TO EAT ANYTHING.

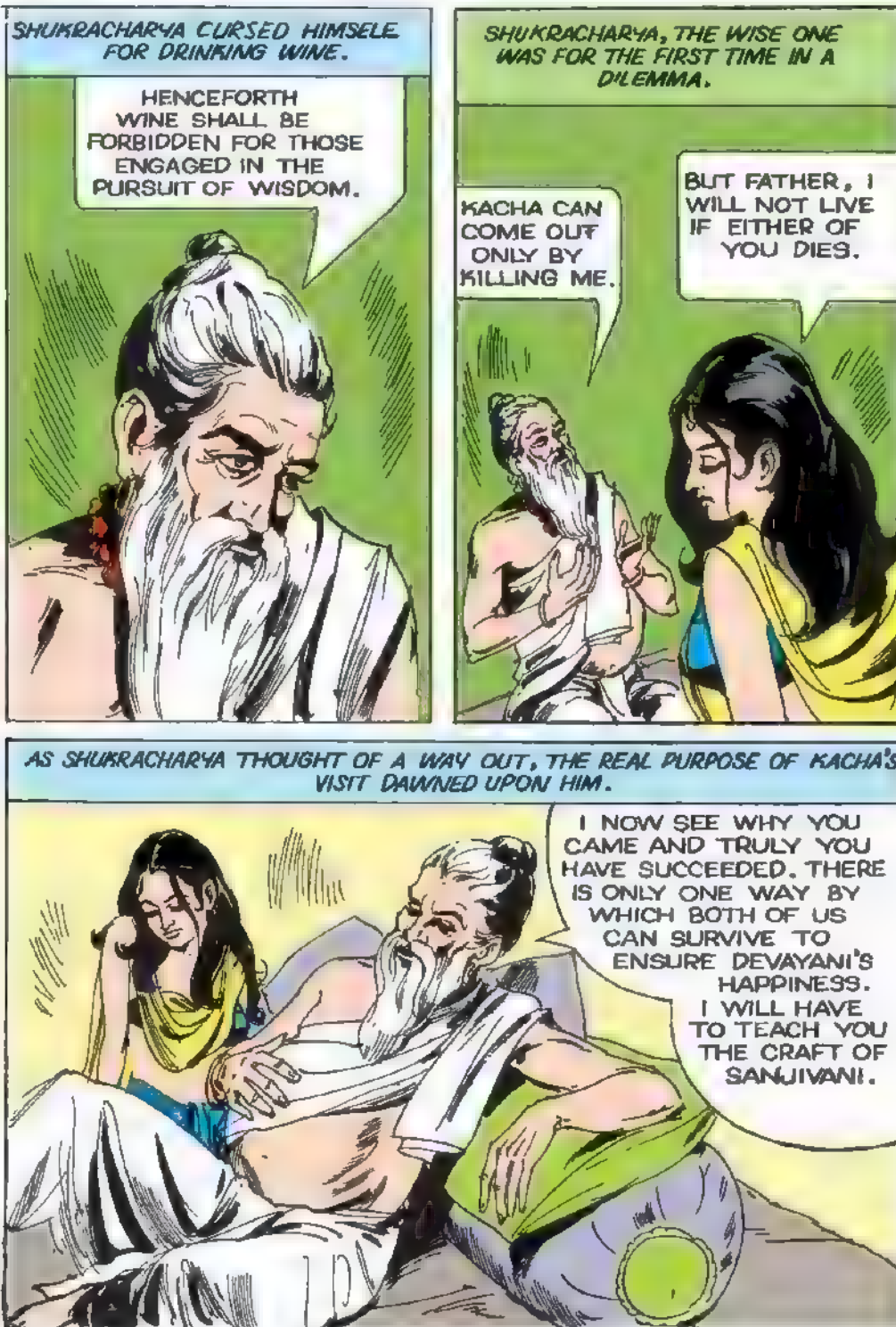
I CAN'T BEAR YOUR SORROW.



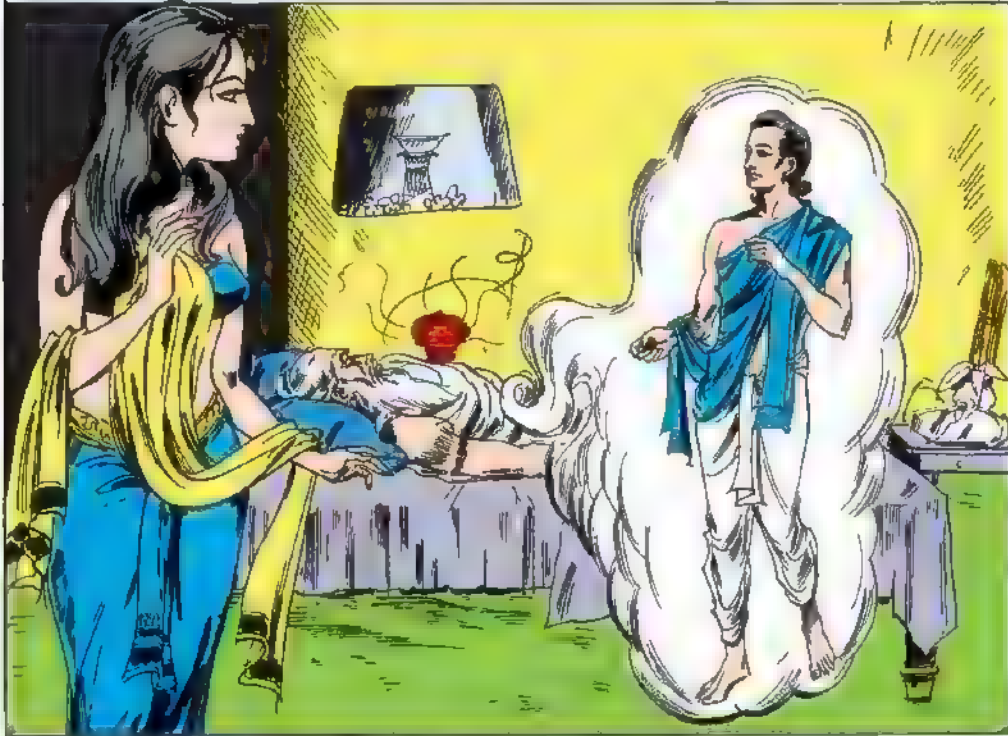
YET AGAIN SHUKRACHARYA USED HIS SECRET KNOWLEDGE AND  
CALLED UPON KACHA TO COME BACK TO THE WORLD OF THE LIVING.  
KACHA CAME BACK TO LIFE...

THE ASURAS KILLED  
ME BUT I DO NOT KNOW  
HOW I HAPPEN TO  
BE INSIDE  
YOUR STOMACH.

...BUT INSIDE  
SHUKRACHARYA'S STOMACH.



AND SO KACHA LEARNED THE CRAFT FOR WHICH HE HAD COME TO THE HOUSE OF SHUKRACHARYA IN THE CITY OF THE ASURAS AND EMERGED FROM SHUKRACHARYA'S MANGLED BODY.



HE IMMEDIATELY BROUGHT HIS GURU BACK TO LIFE.



SHUKRACHARYA COULD NOT HELP BEING PLEASED WITH HIS PUPIL'S WISDOM.

SHUKRACHARYA THEN WENT TO SEE THE ASURAS.







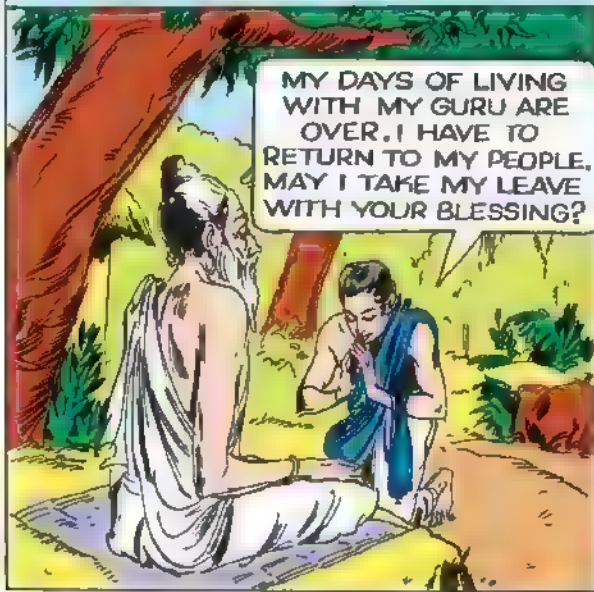
BUT KACHA WAS ONLY WAITING FOR THE FORMAL PERIOD OF HIS STUDIES TO COME TO AN END.

HOW WILL I BREAK THE NEWS TO DEVAYANI? SHE WILL BE HEART-BROKEN. BUT I MUST FULFIL MY DUTIES.



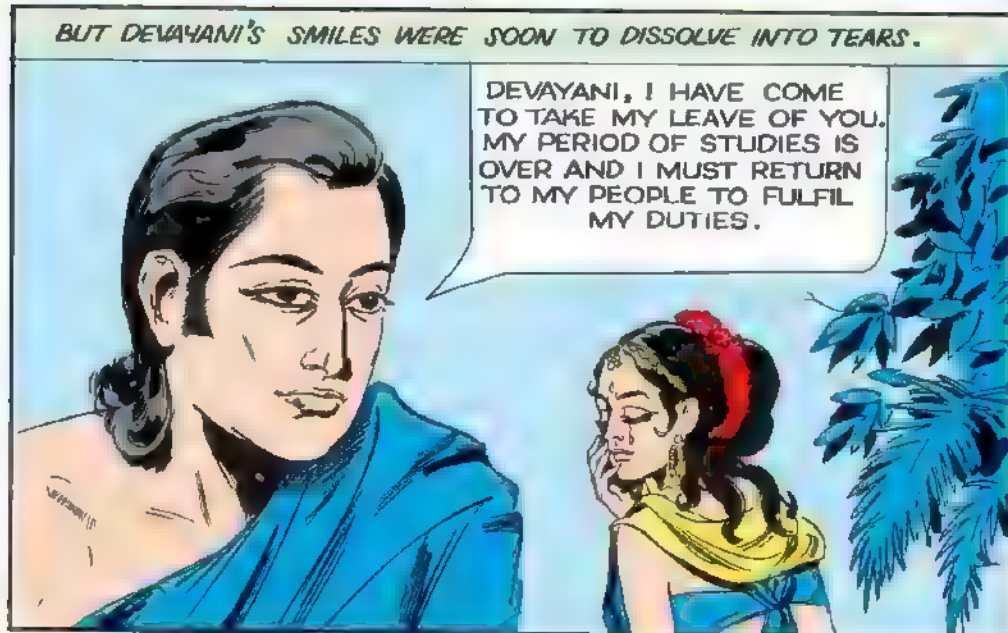
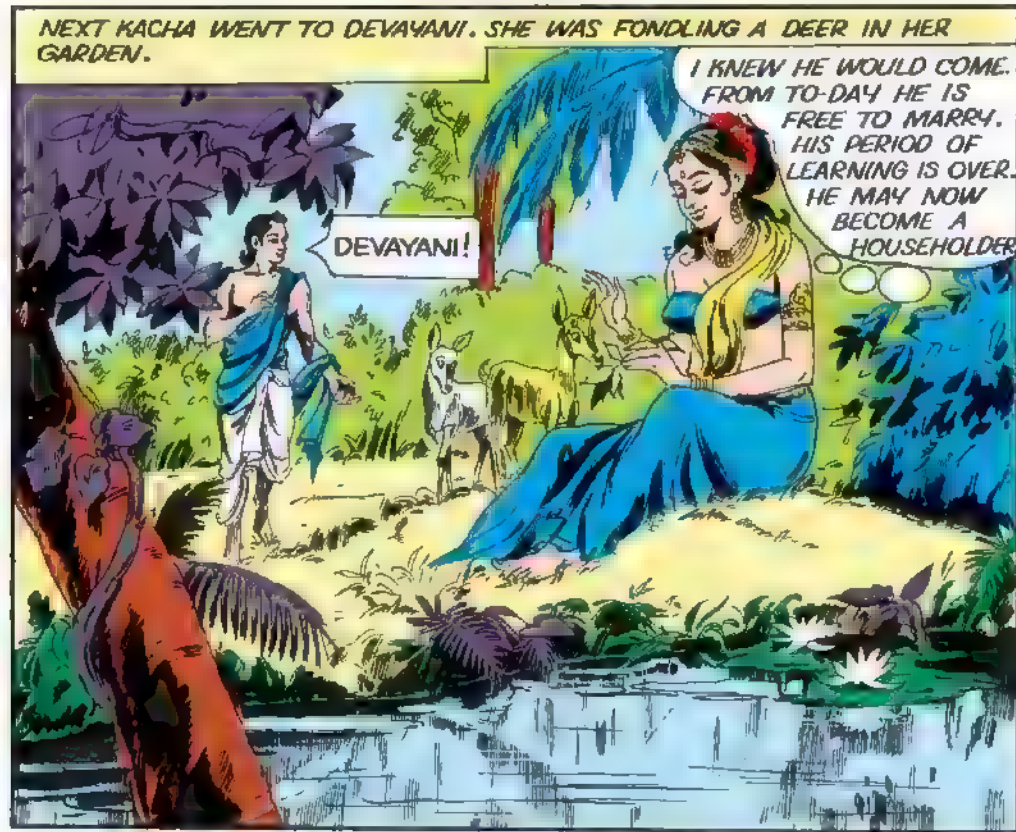
AT LAST THE DAY ARRIVED WHEN KACHA COULD LEAVE.

MY DAYS OF LIVING WITH MY GURU ARE OVER. I HAVE TO RETURN TO MY PEOPLE. MAY I TAKE MY LEAVE WITH YOUR BLESSING?



DOES DEVAYANI KNOW OF HIS DECISION? I WONDER!

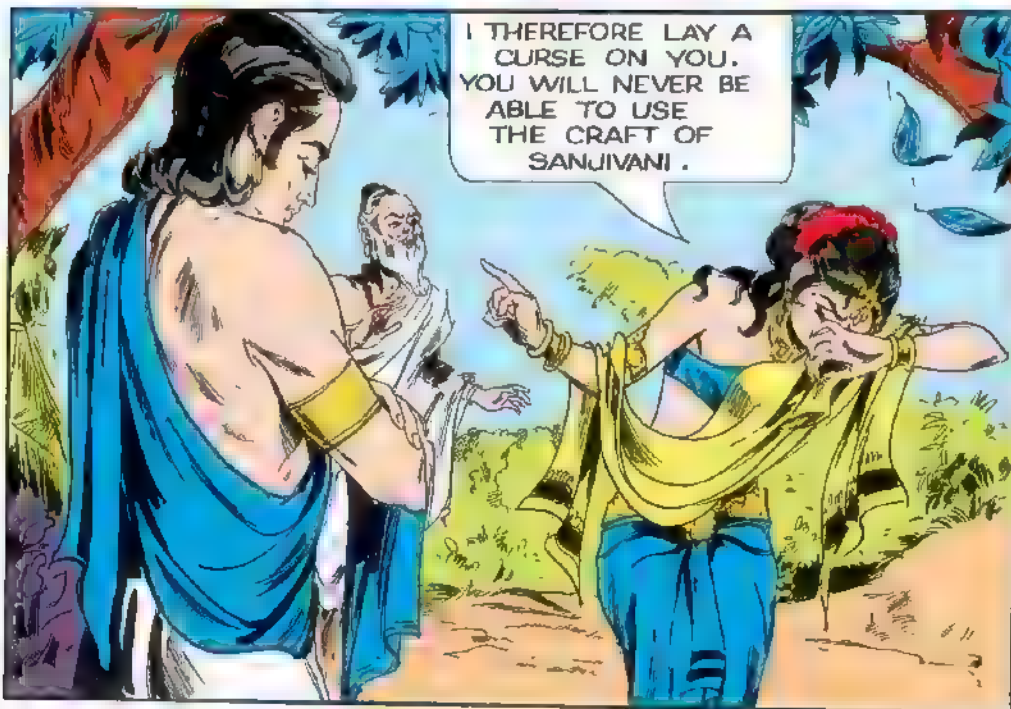


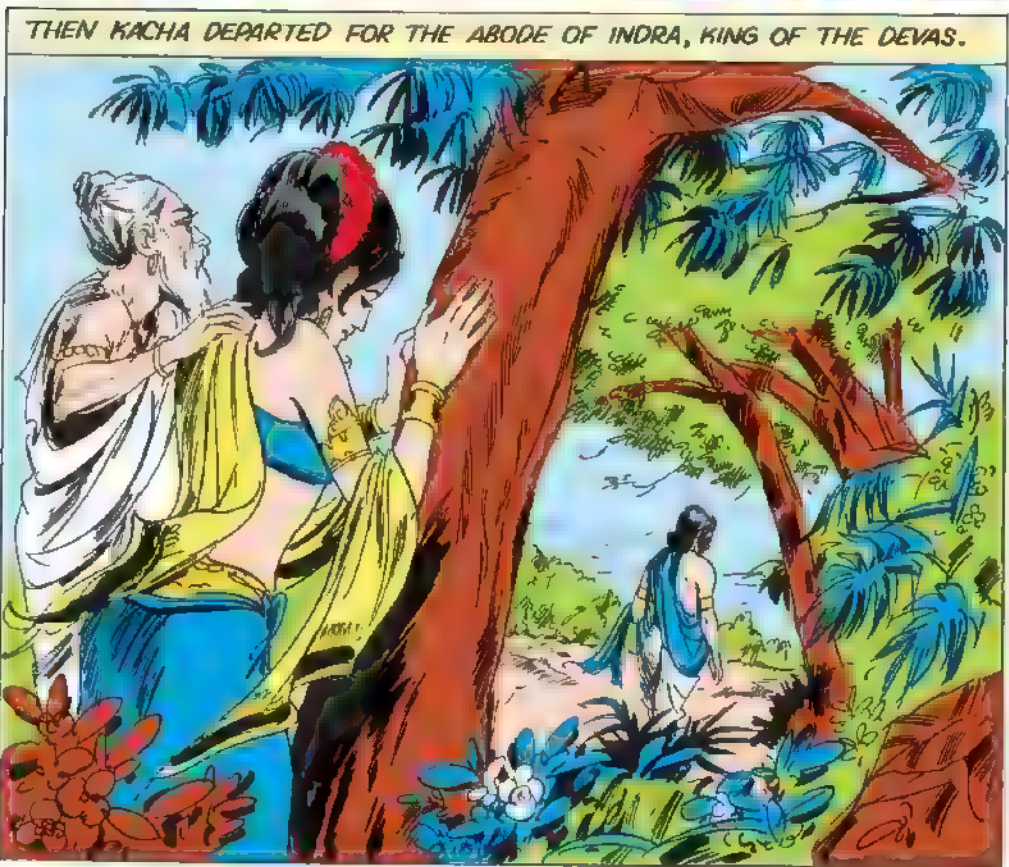
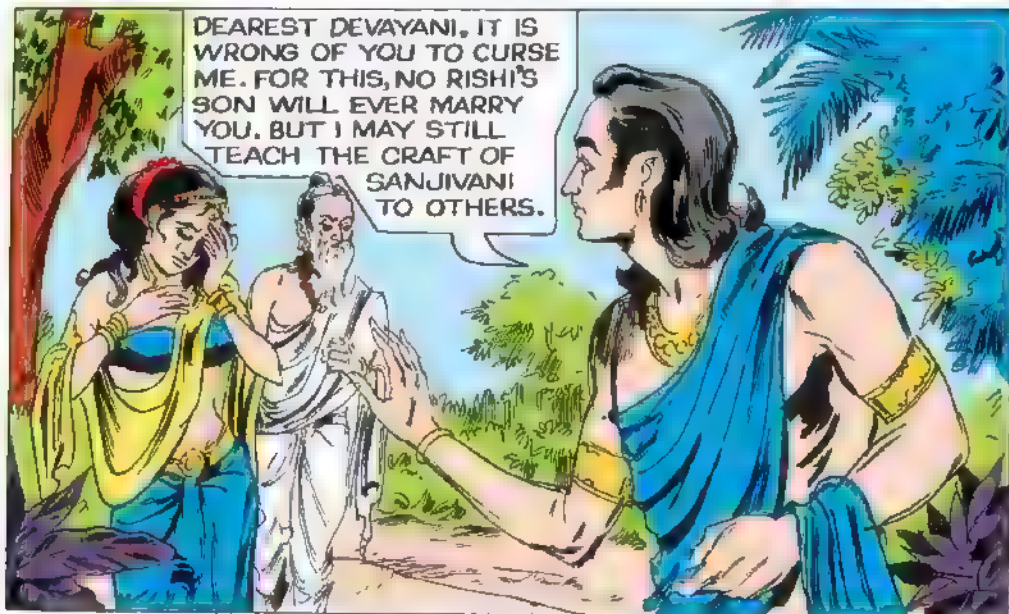






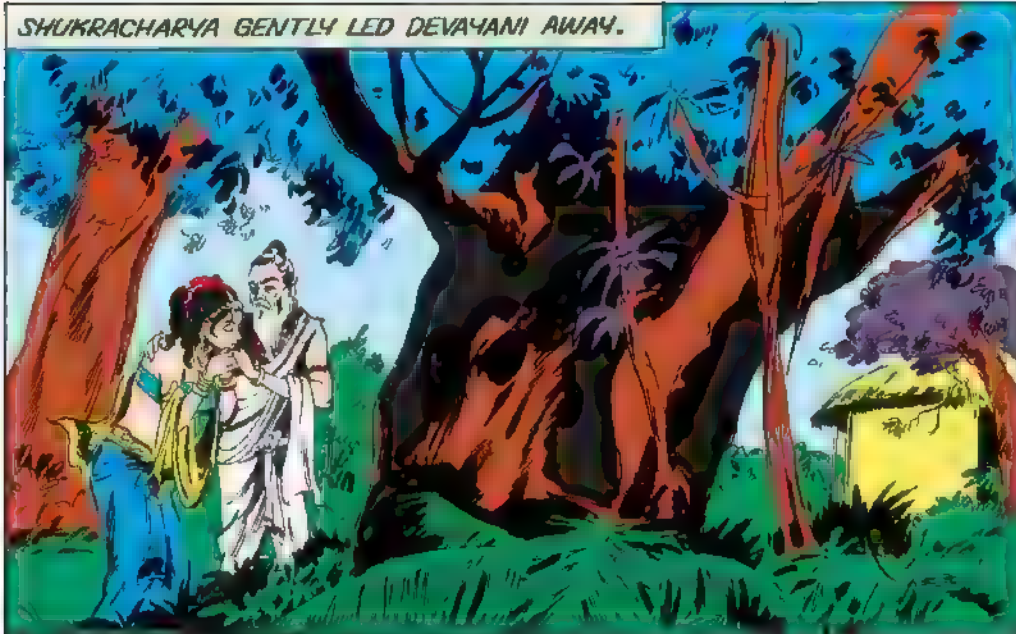
THE BROKEN-HEARTED DEVAYANI CRIED OUT IN HER GRIEF.







SHUKRACHARYA GENTLY LED DEVAYANI AWAY.



WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, DEVAYANI COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF KACHA.



AND SHE LIVED HAPPILY WITH HER FATHER AND HER PLAYMATES  
IN THE CITY OF VRISHAPARVA, KING OF THE ASURAS.





# INDRA AND SHACHI

THE LORD OF HEAVEN AND HIS DEVOTED WIFE







**The route to your roots**

## **INDRA AND SHACHI**

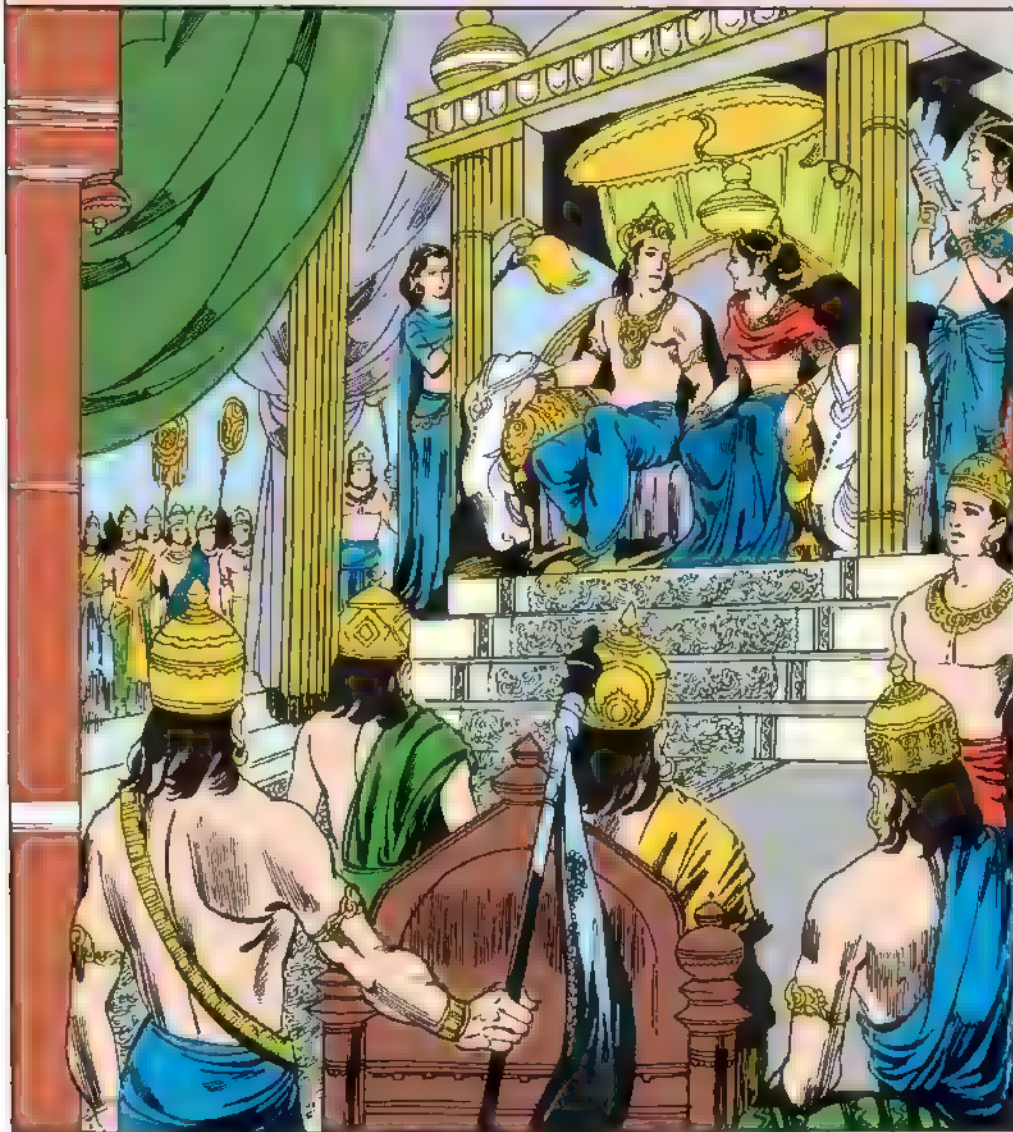
Even gods can be prey to their inner torments. Lying and killing for the sake of peace and order, Indra felt he was unworthy of being king of heaven. A new king was installed on his throne! Now it was up to Indra's wife Shachi to ensure that his honour survived. Would the gods ever regain their respect for her beloved?

**Script**  
**Lakshmi Seshadri**

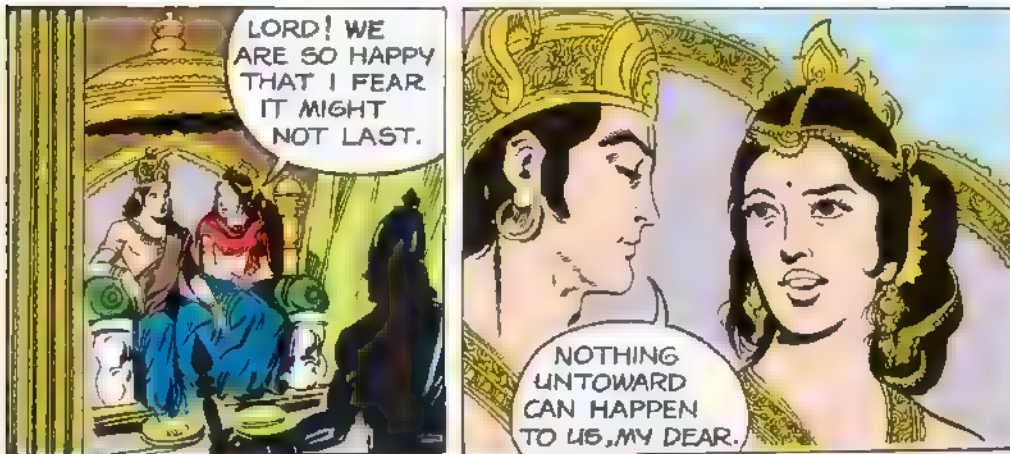
**Illustrations**  
**M.N.Nangare**

**Editor**  
**Anant Pai**

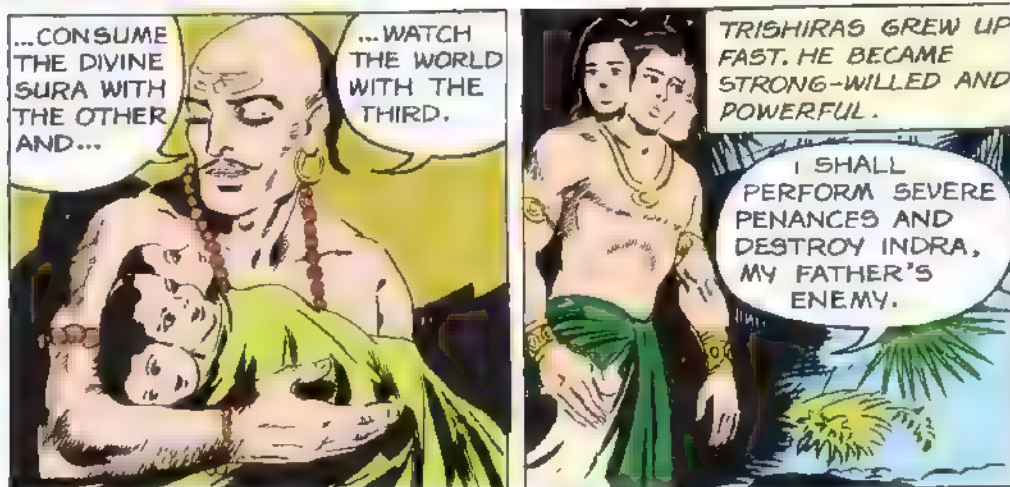
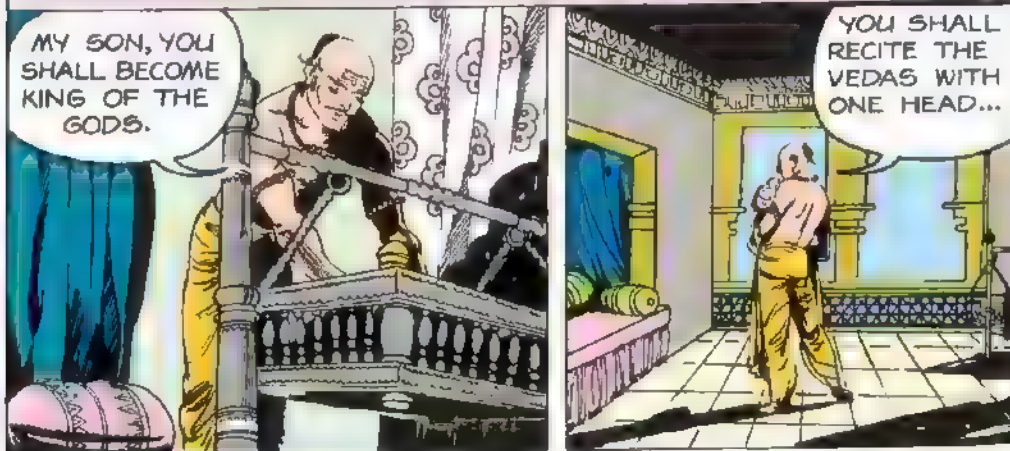
# INDRA AND SHACHI



INDRA WAS THE KING OF THE DEVAS. HE LIVED WITH HIS  
QUEEN, SHACHI IN HIS CELESTIAL CITY, AMARAVATI.

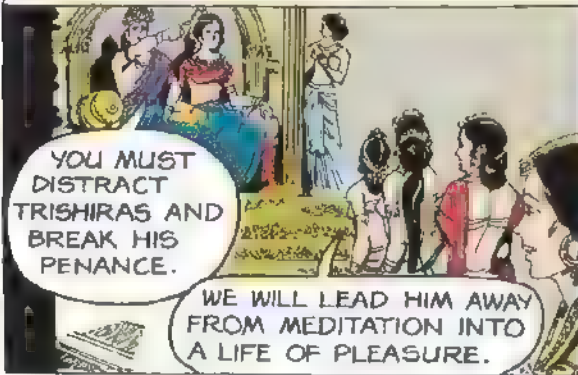


BUT THERE WAS CAUSE FOR THEM TO FEAR. AT THAT VERY MOMENT A SON WAS BORN TO TVASHTA, INDRA'S ENEMY.





INDRA HEARD OF TRISHIRAS AND OF HIS INTENSE PENANCE TO DESTROY HIM. HE SENT FOR THE APSARAS, THE CELESTIAL MAIDENS...



YOU MUST DISTRACT TRISHIRAS AND BREAK HIS PENANCE.

WE WILL LEAD HIM AWAY FROM MEDITATION INTO A LIFE OF PLEASURE.

THE APSARAS PREPARED THEMSELVES.

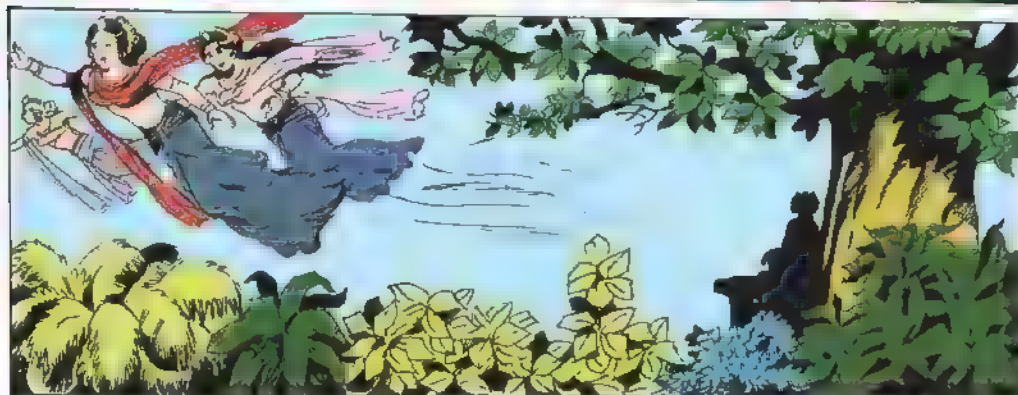
WE WILL TEMPT HIM WITH THESE FRUITS AND FLOWERS.



I WILL DANCE.

YOUR VOICE IS SWEET AND ENCHANTING. YOU MUST SING.

THEIR CHARMS WERE HEAVENLY. BUT TRISHIRAS WAS UNMOVED.



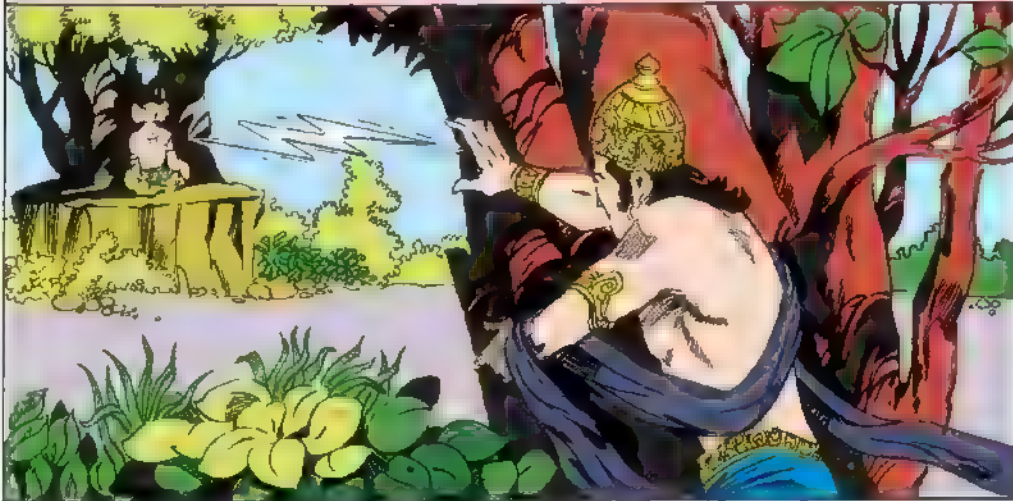
THE APSARAS RETURNED TO INDRA.



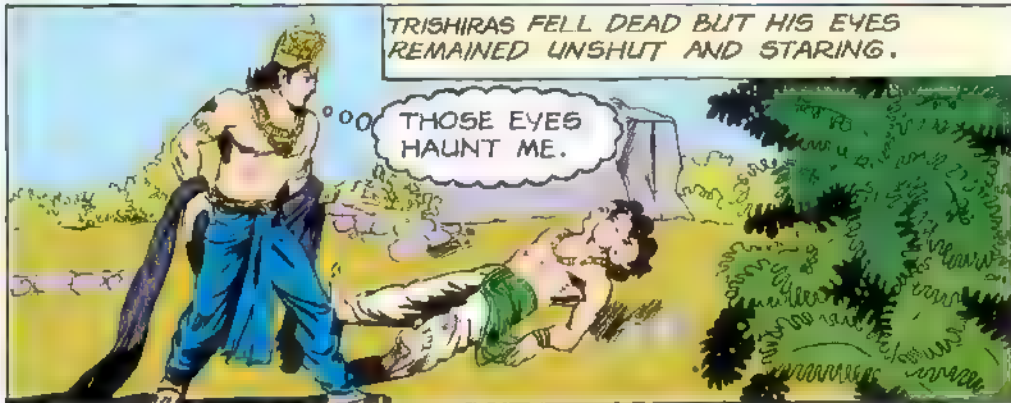
SHACHI WAS WORRIED.



INDRA THREW HIS THUNDERBOLT AT TRISHIRAS WHILE HE WAS PRAYING.

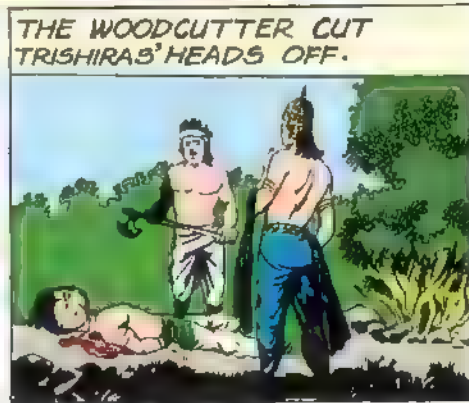


TRISHIRAS FELL DEAD BUT HIS EYES REMAINED UNSHUT AND STARING.

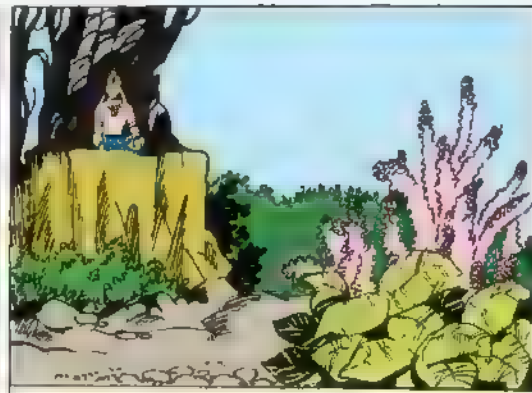
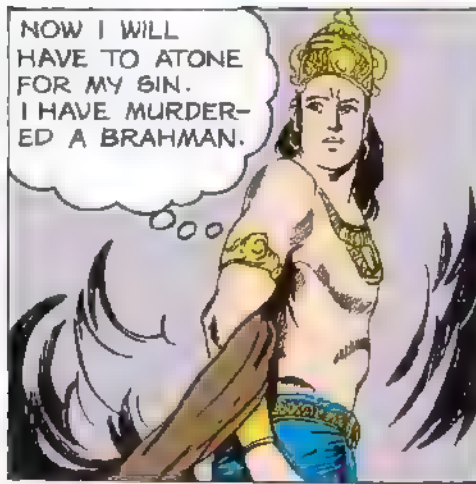




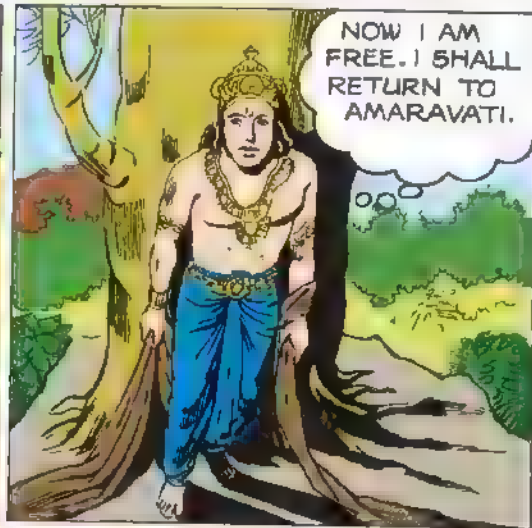
AT THAT MOMENT A WOODCUTTER HAPPENED TO PASS BY.





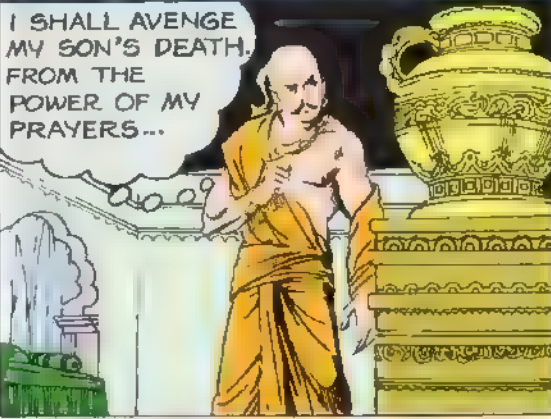


INDRA DID PENANCE FOR A LONG TIME.

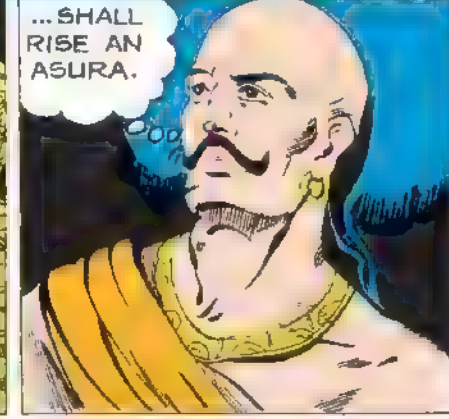


MEANWHILE TVASHTA HEARD OF TRISHIRAS' DEATH. HE WAS DEEPLY GRIEVED AND VERY ANGRY.

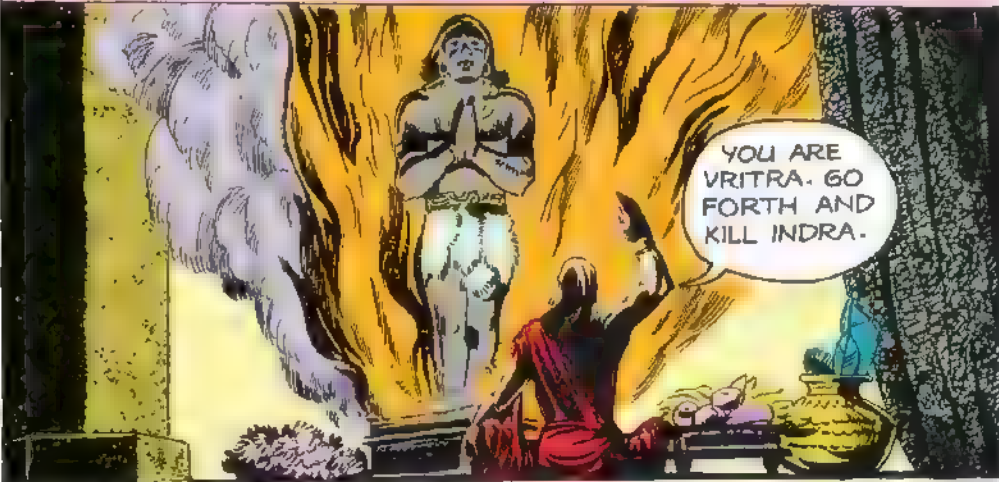
I SHALL AVENGE  
MY SON'S DEATH.  
FROM THE  
POWER OF MY  
PRAYERS...



...SHALL  
RISE AN  
ASURA.



TVASHTA PERFORMED A SACRIFICE AND CREATED AN ASURA.

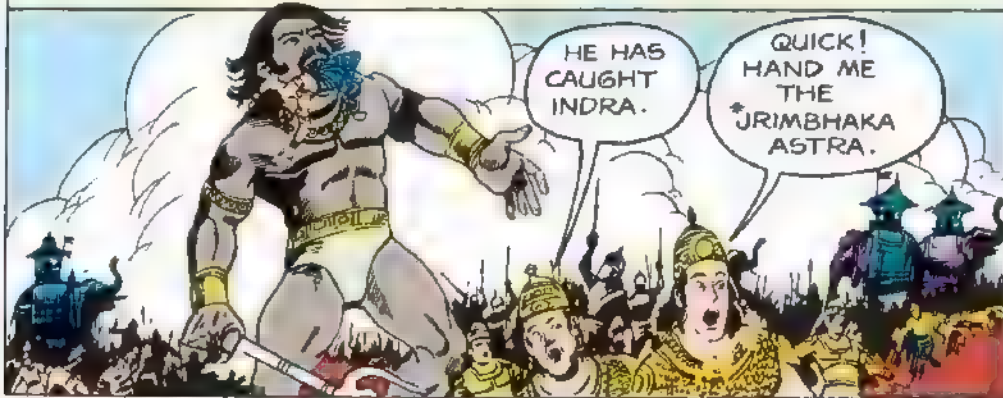


WHEN INDRA HEARD OF VRITRA, HE PREPARED TO MEET THE CHALLENGE.

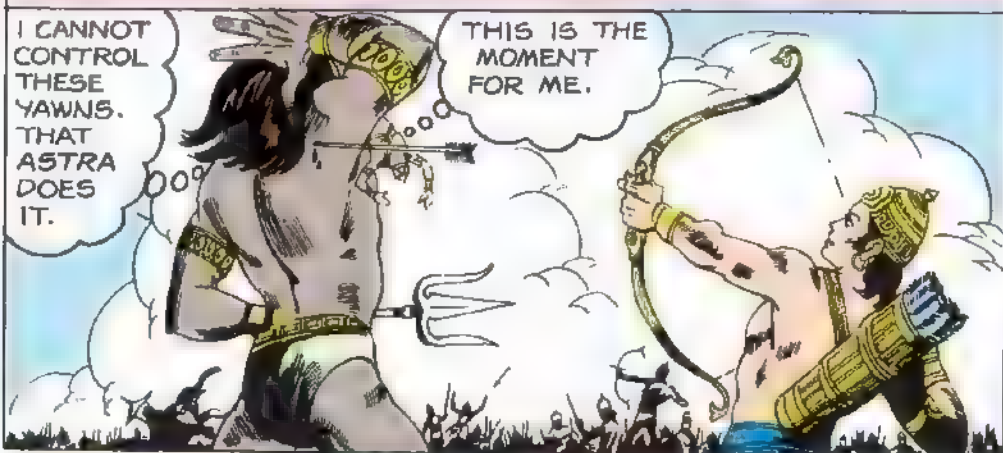
VRITRA HAS COME  
TO AVENGE TRISHIRAS.



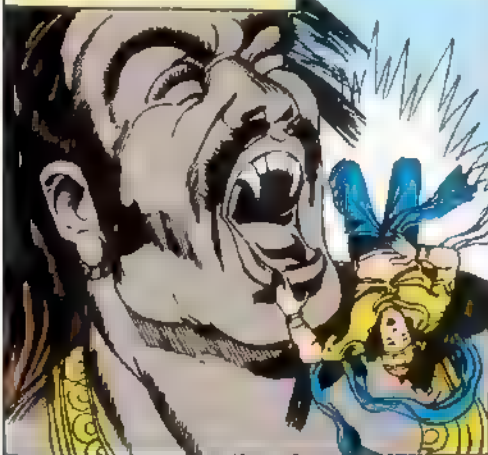
THERE WAS A TERRIBLE BATTLE IN WHICH VRITRA CAUGHT INDRA BETWEEN HIS TEETH.



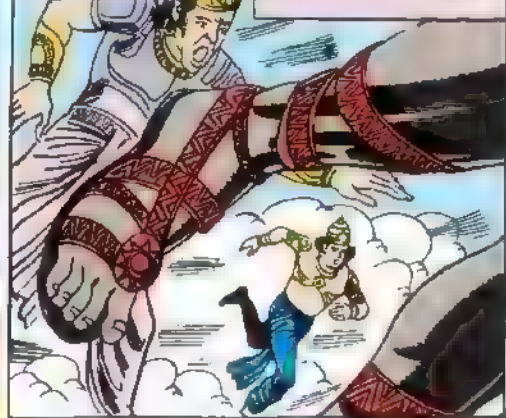
THE JIRIMBHAKA ASTRA FOUND ITS MARK.



VRITRA YAWNED...



INDRA MADE HIMSELF TINY AND ESCAPED.



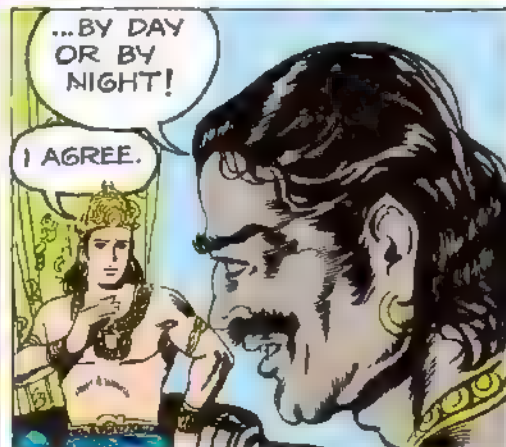
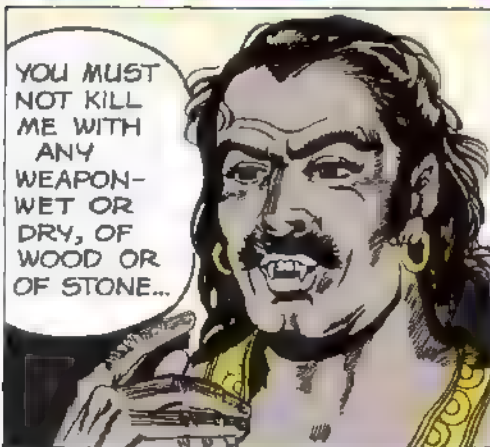
\* AN ARROW WHICH MAKES A MAN YAWN



HE AND HIS SUBJECTS WENT TO VISHNU FOR ADVICE.



INDRA MADE PEACE WITH VRITRA. BUT VRITRA WAS WARY.



ONE EVENING THEY WERE ON  
THE SEA-SHORE.

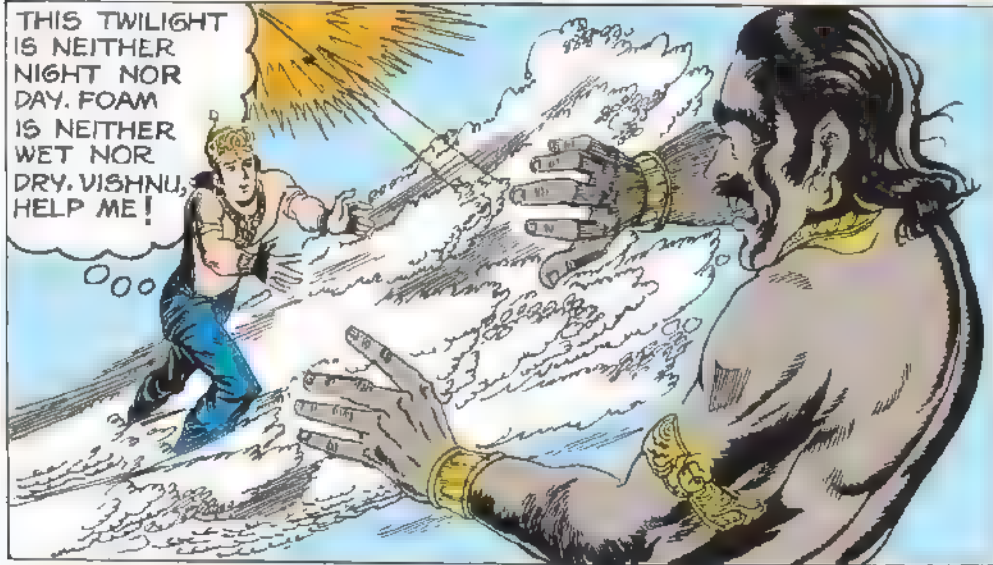


I MUST  
KILL HIM SOON  
-BUT WITHOUT  
USING A WEAPON.

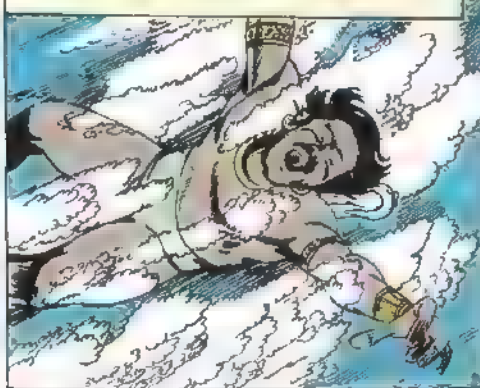
FOAM  
CANNOT BE  
CONSIDERED  
A WEAPON.  
VISHNU HAS  
PROMISED  
TO HELP  
ME.



THIS TWILIGHT  
IS NEITHER  
NIGHT NOR  
DAY. FOAM  
IS NEITHER  
WET NOR  
DRY. VISHNU,  
HELP ME!



VISHNU ENTERED THE FOAM AND WHEN INDRA THREW IT AT  
VRITRA, HE WAS KILLED IMMEDIATELY BY THE  
POWER OF VISHNU WITHIN IT.



BUT AS INDRA HAD BETRAYED VRITRA HE WAS ASHAMED TO FACE THE WORLD.



INDRA RAN AWAY. ALL WAS DARKNESS AND CHAOS, ON EARTH AND IN HEAVEN.





THE DEVAS MET IN A COUNCIL.



THE DEVAS WENT TO KING NAHUSHA'S COURT.

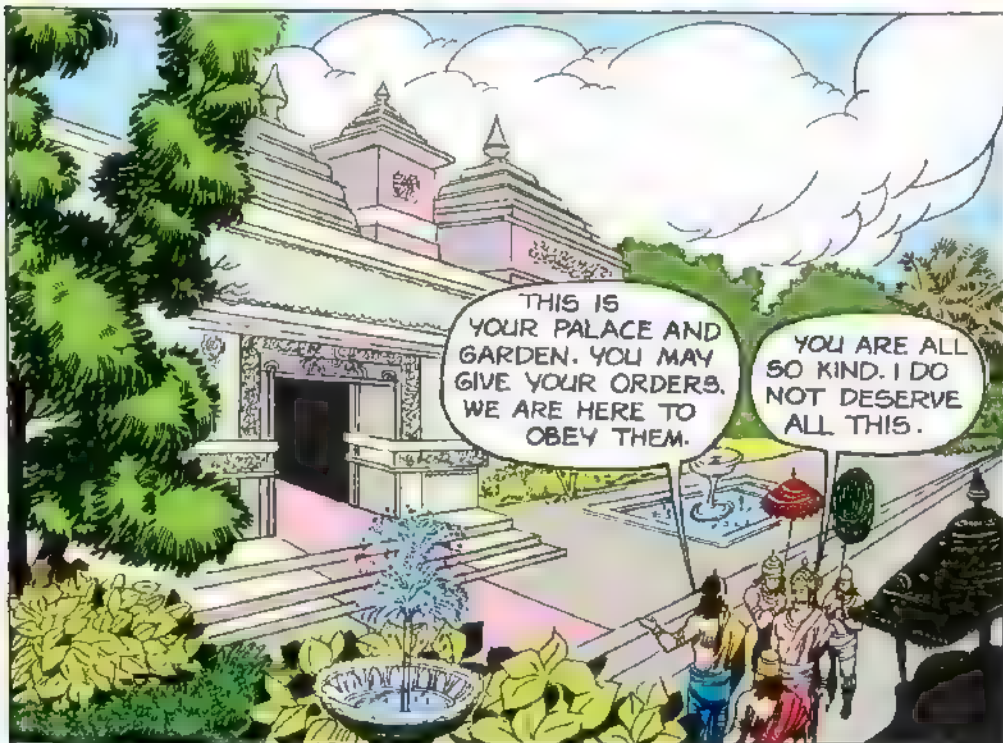
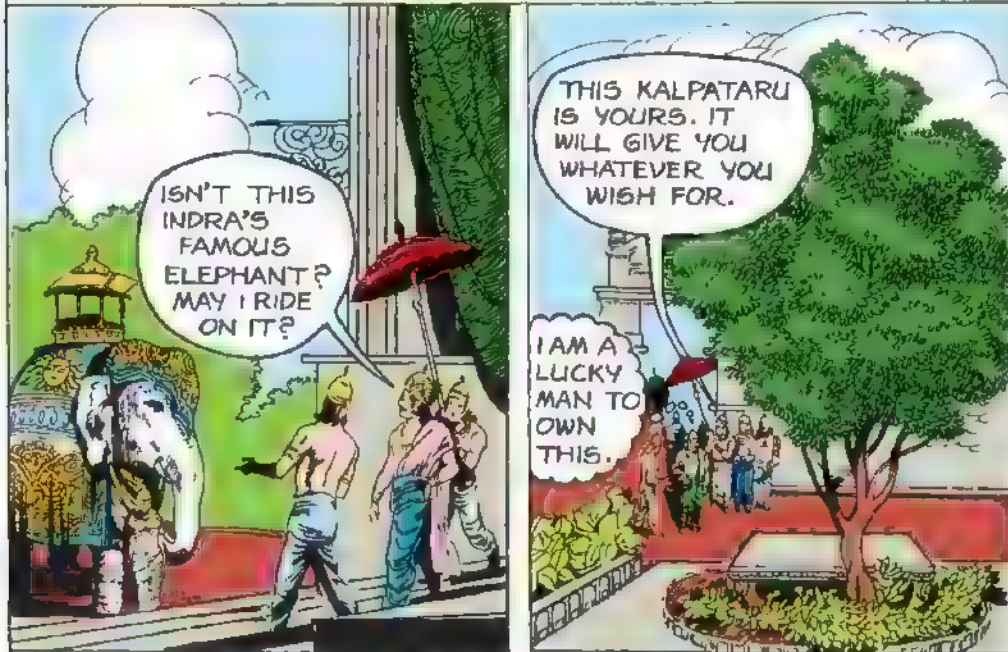


THE DEVAS MADE NAHUSHA THEIR KING.



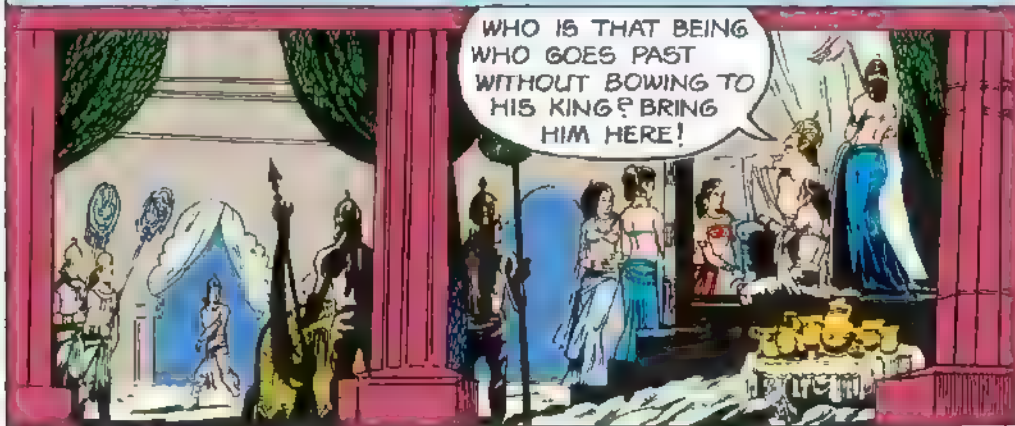


NAHUSHA ENJOYED ALL THE CELESTIAL PLEASURES.





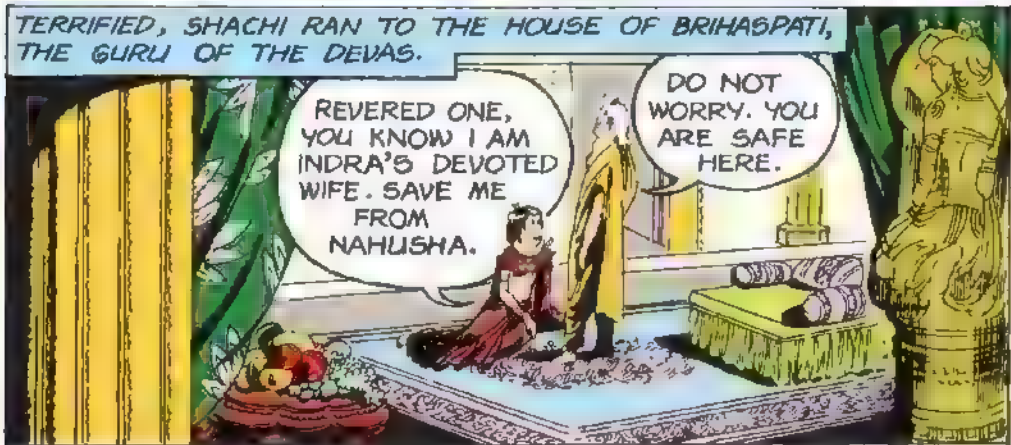
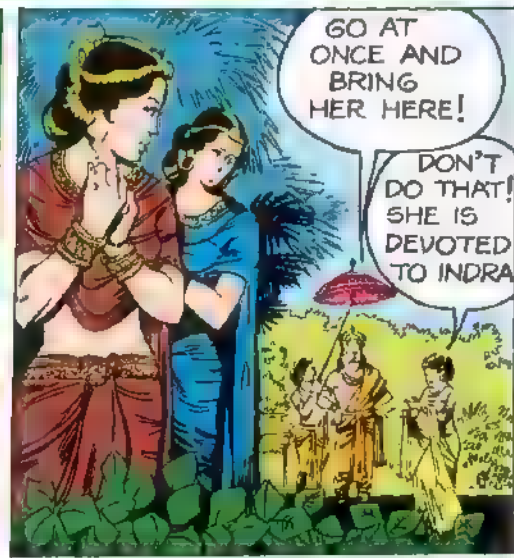
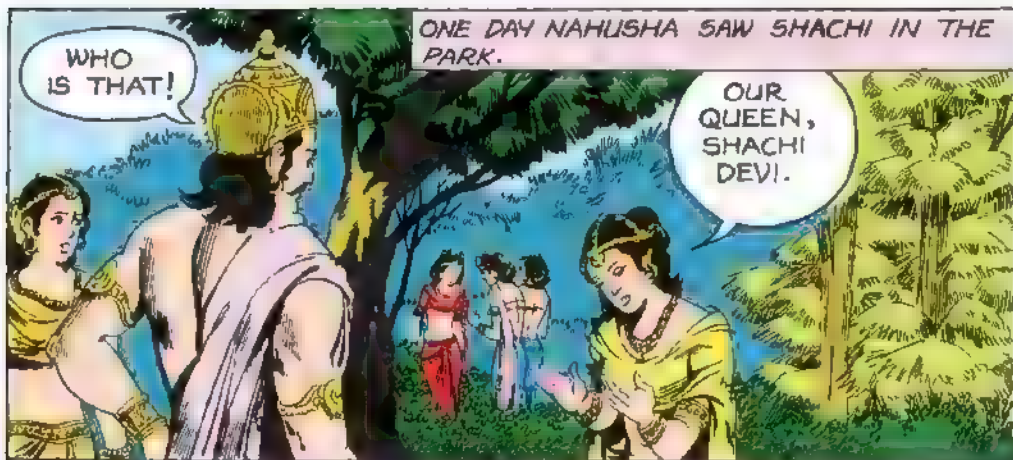
BUT ALAS! NAHUSHA SOON BECAME CONCEITED AND ARROGANT.



THE DEVAS WERE VERY UNHAPPY.



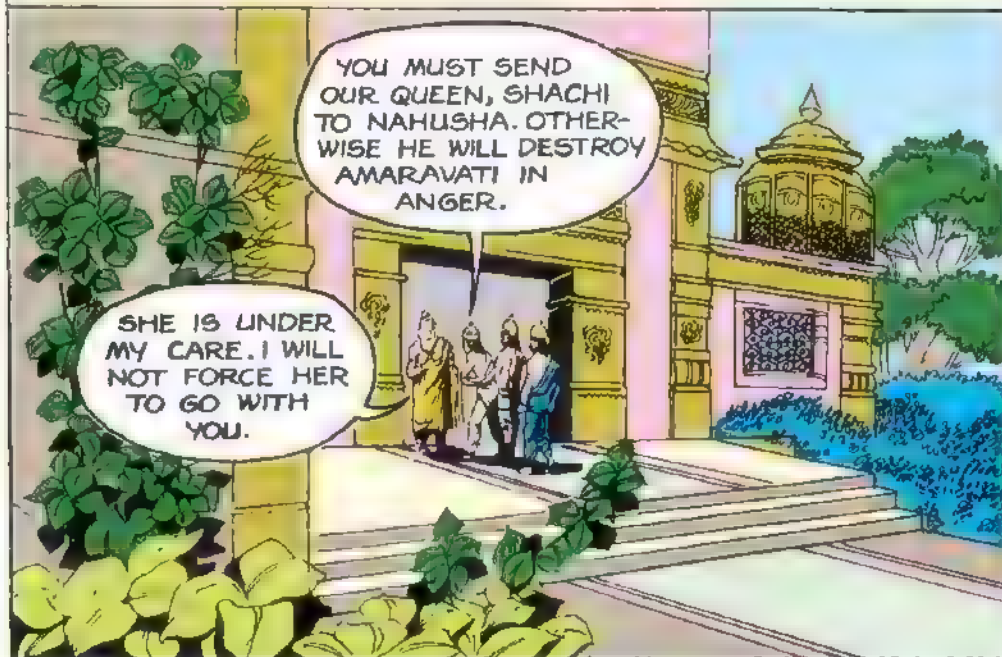
\* THE GODS OF WIND.



NAHUSHA WAS VERY ANGRY WHEN HE HEARD THAT SHACHI WAS IN BRIHASPATI'S HOUSE.



THE DEVAS TREMBLED BEFORE NAHUSHA'S FURY. THEY RAN TO BRIHASPATI'S HOUSE.







SO, PROMPTED BY BRIHASPATI, SHACHI WENT WITH THE DEVAS TO NAHUSHA.



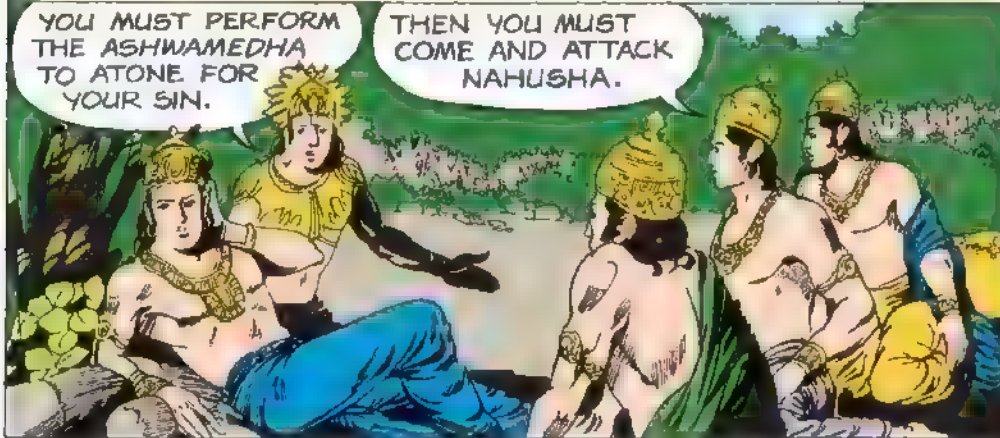
THE DEVAS THEN WENT TO VISHNU FOR ADVICE.



AGNI, THE FIRE-GOD, LED THE SEARCH FOR INDRA.



AT LAST THEY FOUND INDRA.



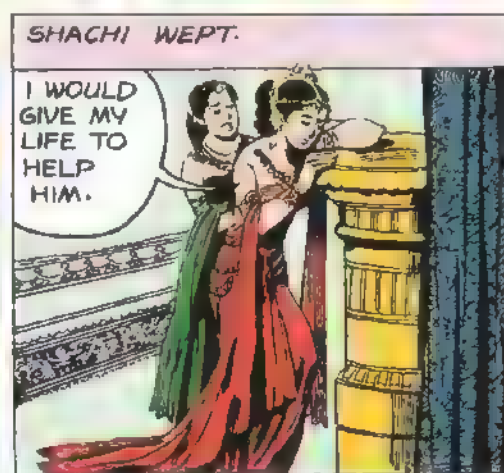
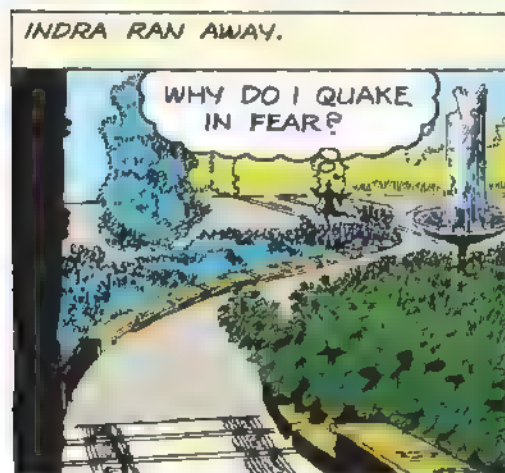
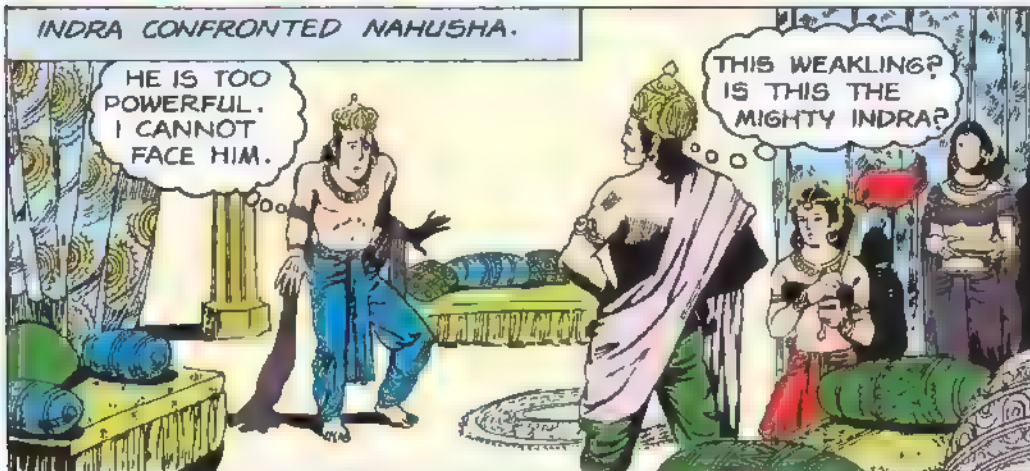
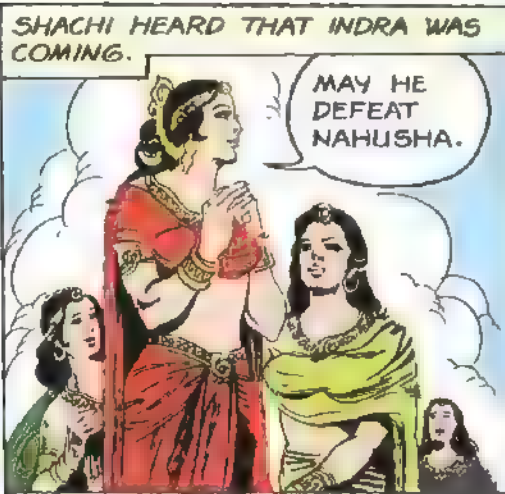
INDRA PERFORMED THE ASHWAMEDHA...



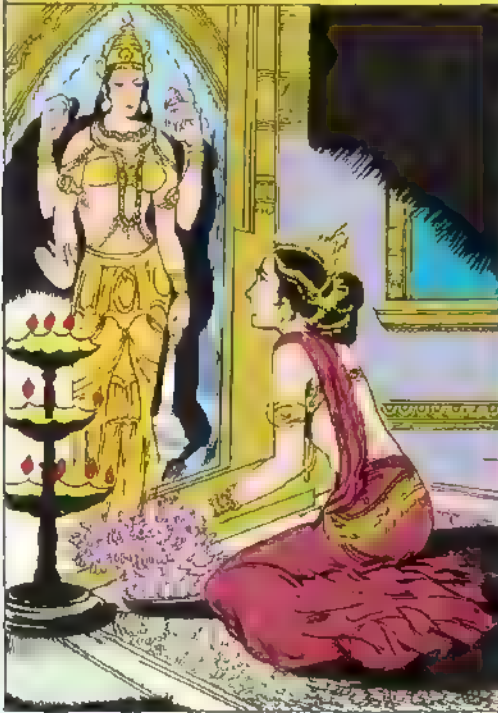
... AND THEN SET OUT TO CHALLENGE NAHUSHA.







SHACHI PRAYED TO UPASHRUTI, A GODDESS OF THE NIGHT.



UPASHRUTI APPEARED BEFORE SHACHI.

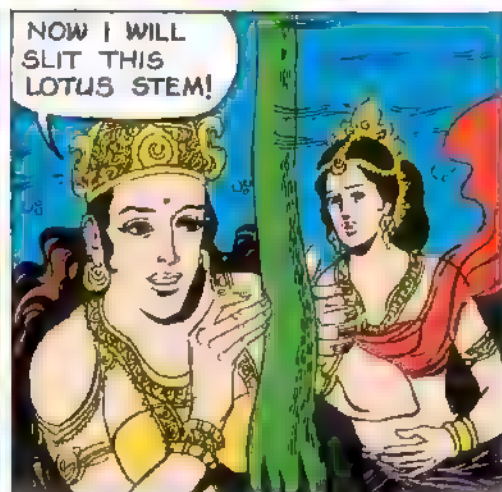
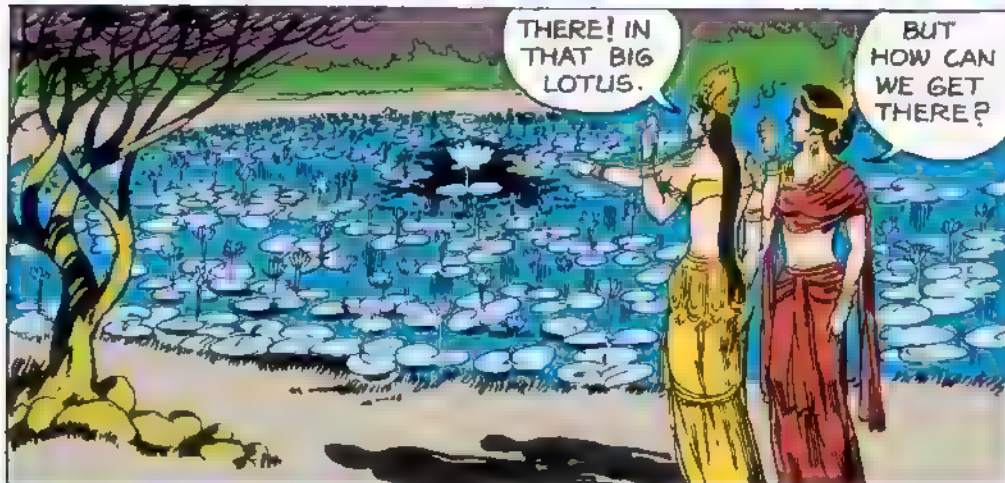
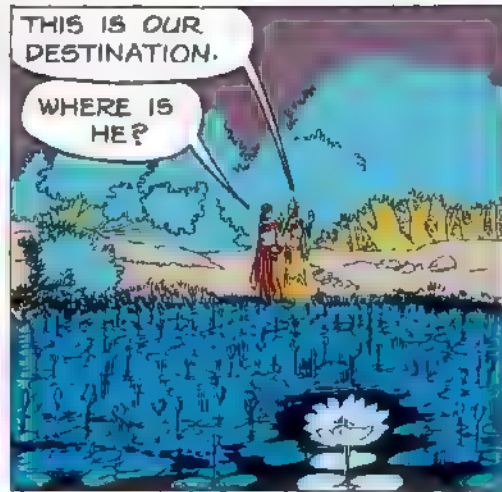


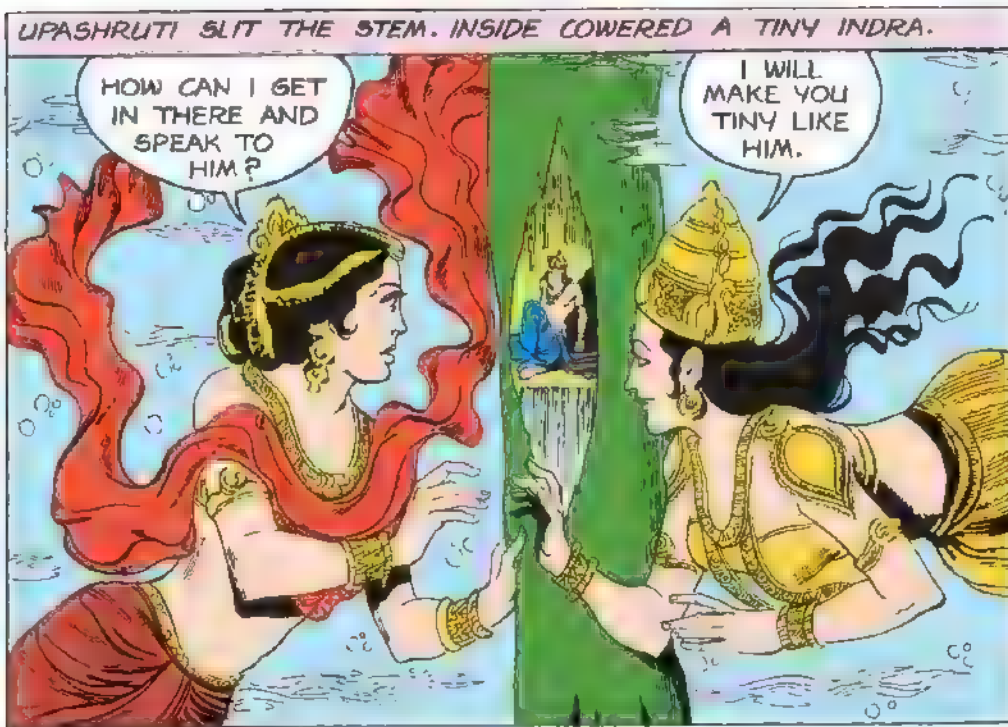


UPASHRUTI LED SHACHI INTO THE DARK NIGHT.

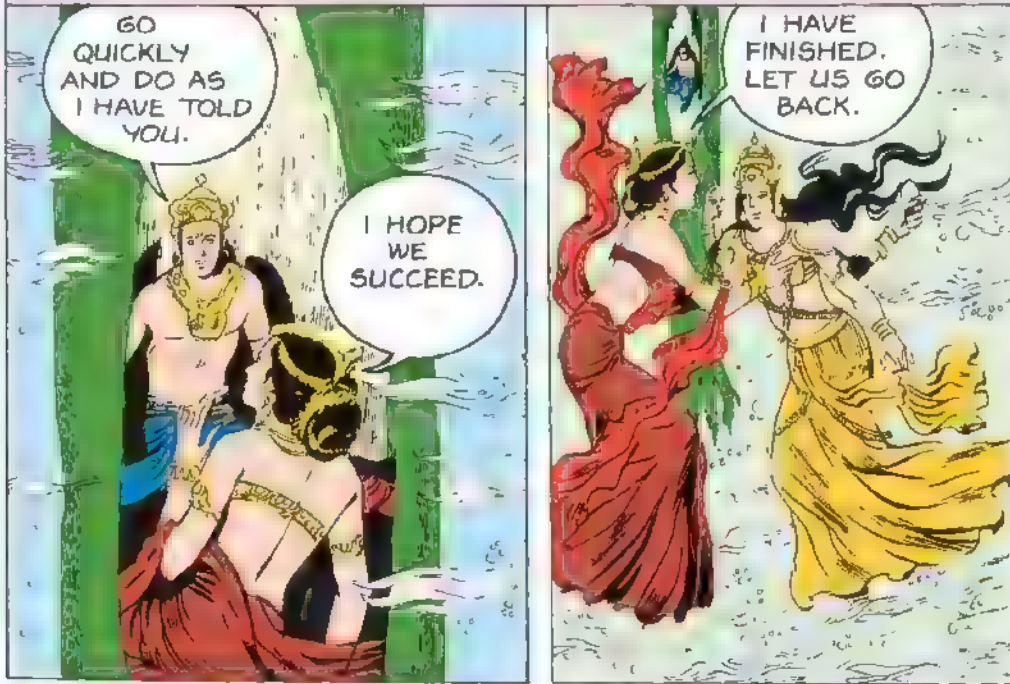




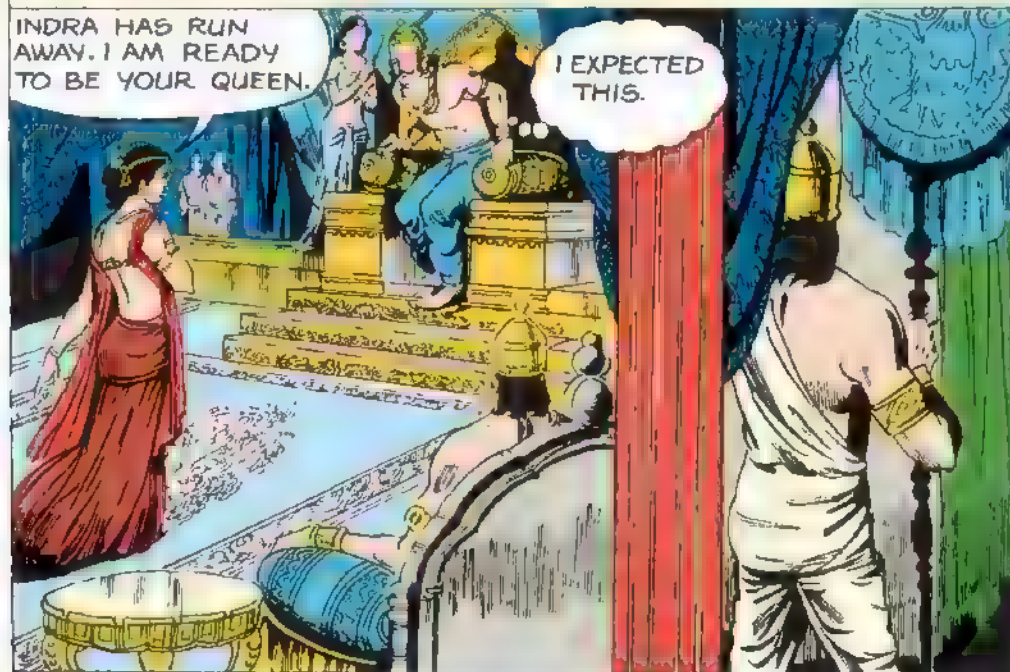




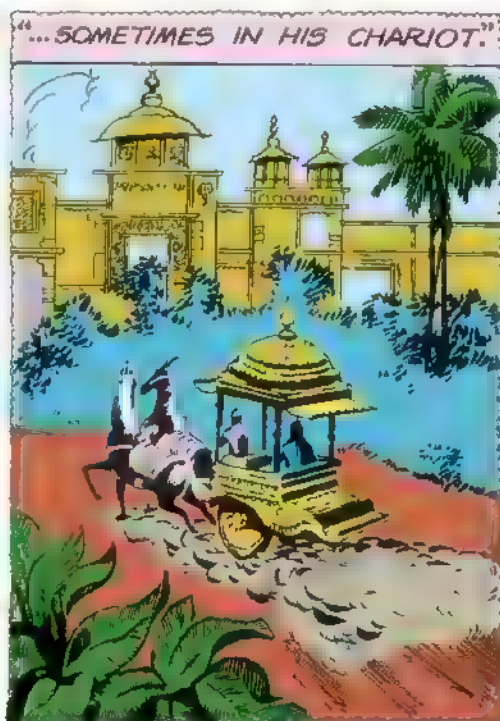
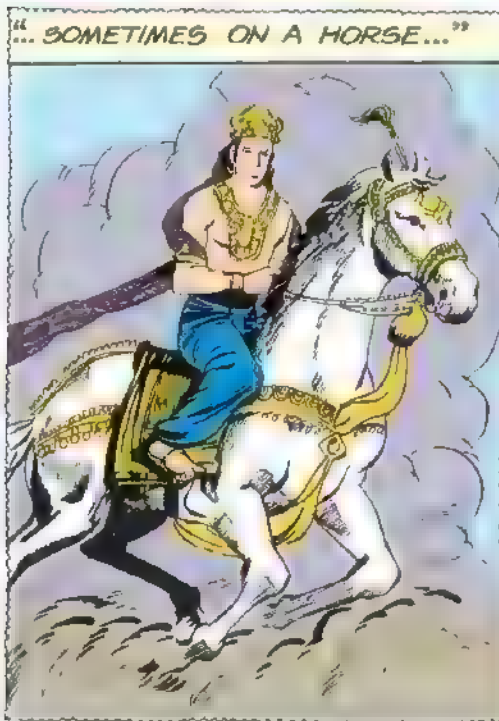
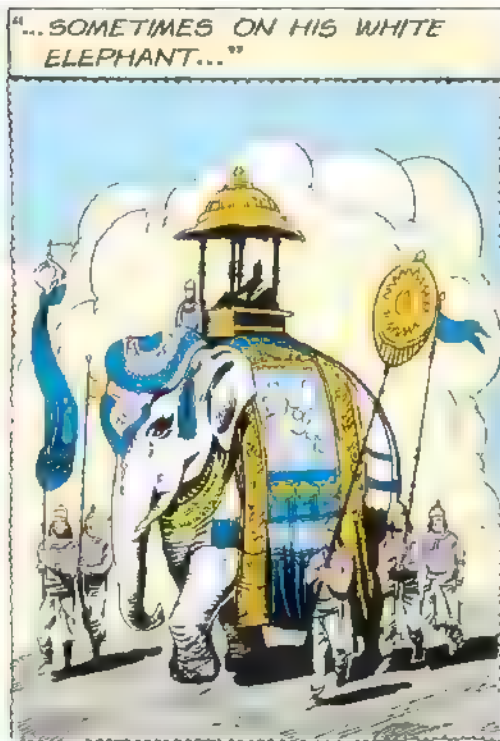
INDRA TOLD HER WHAT SHE SHOULD DO.

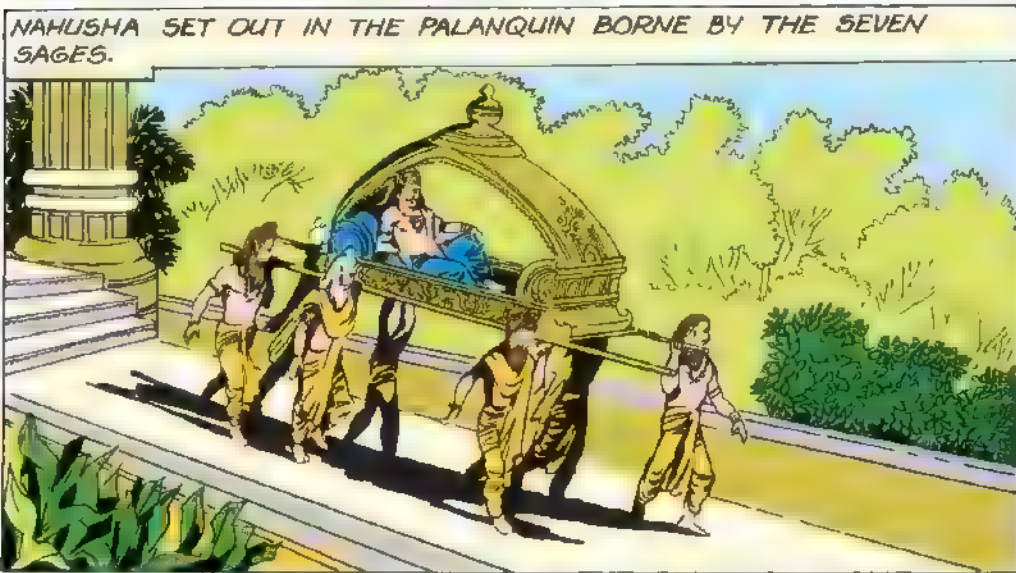
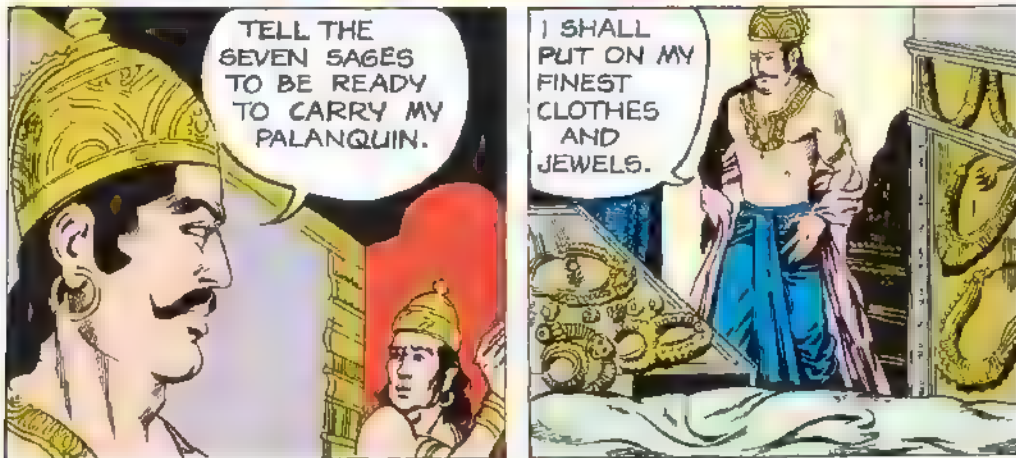


THE NEXT MORNING SHACHI WENT TO NAHUSHA.

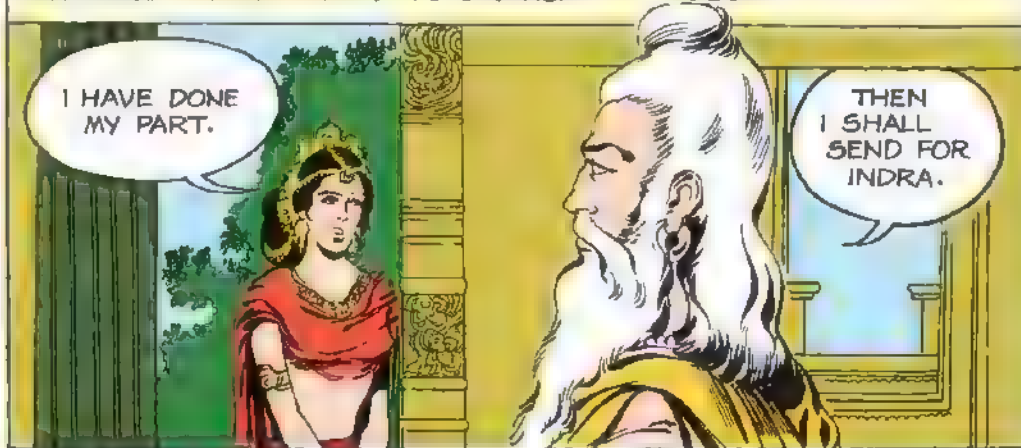




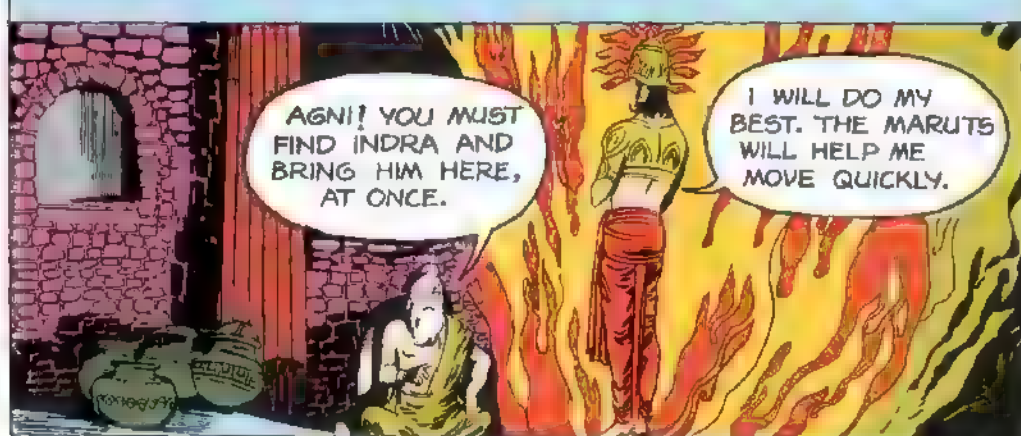




MEANWHILE SHACHI WENT TO BRIHASPATI'S HOUSE.



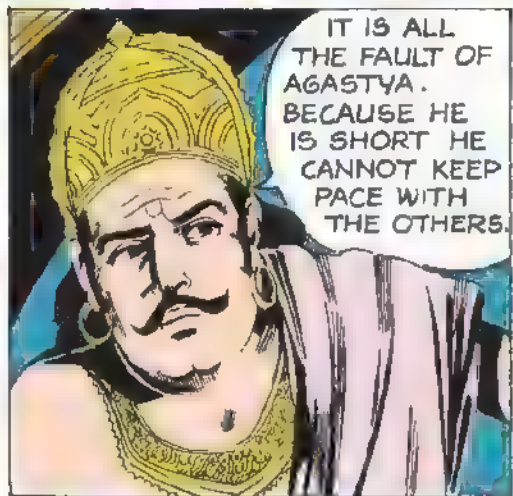
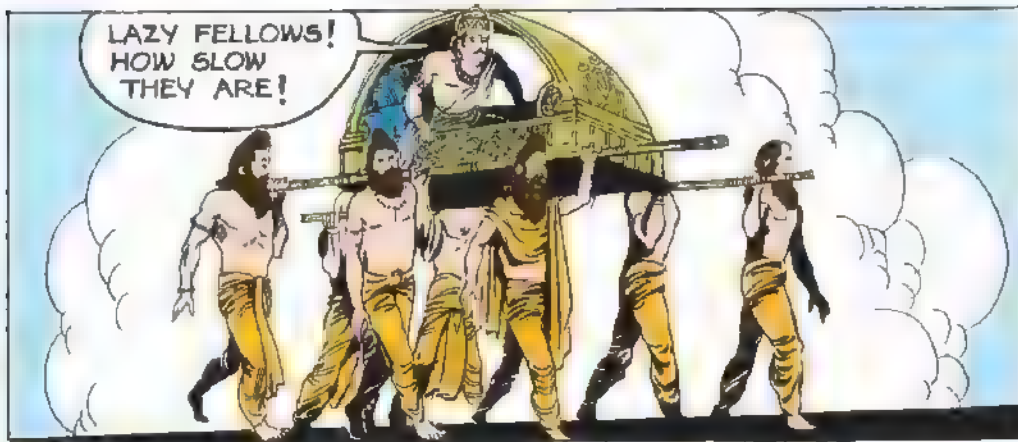
BRIHASPATI INVOKED AGNI IN A SACRIFICE.



AGNI CALLED THE DEVAS.

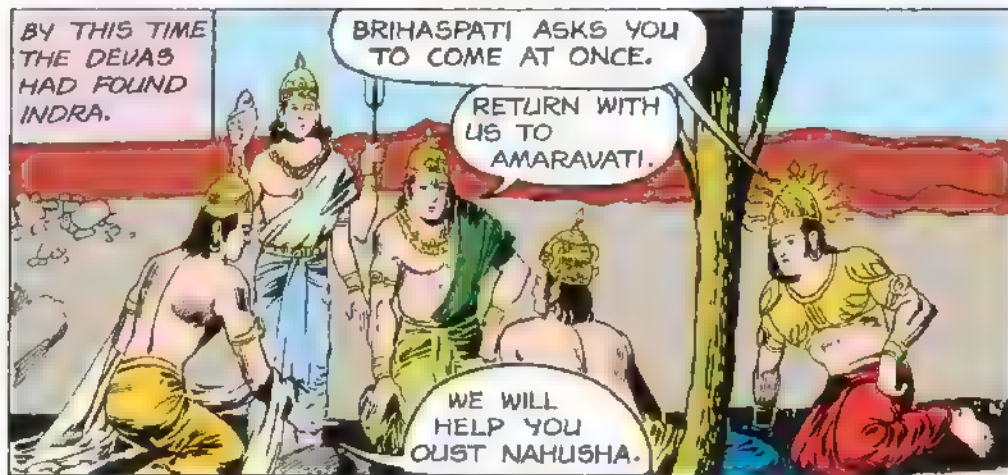




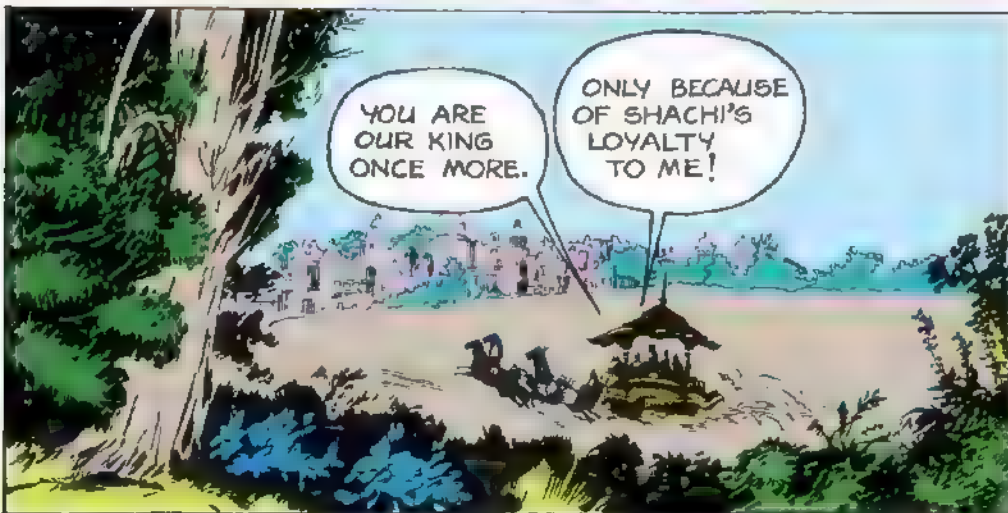


WHEN NAHUSHA KICKED HIM, AGASTYA BECAME ANGRY.





JUST THEN AGASTYA CAME HURRYING UP.





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from the valour of Shivaji to the teachings of Tagore,  
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# SAVITRI

THE PERFECT WIFE





**The route to your roots**

## **SAVITRI**

Even the merciless Lord Yama is charmed by Savitri. This gentle, beautiful princess is admired by gods and kings, the rich and the poor, the young and the old. But when the shadow of death hangs over her husband she is filled with courage spurred by her selfless love for him. She strives for a miracle – with amazing success!

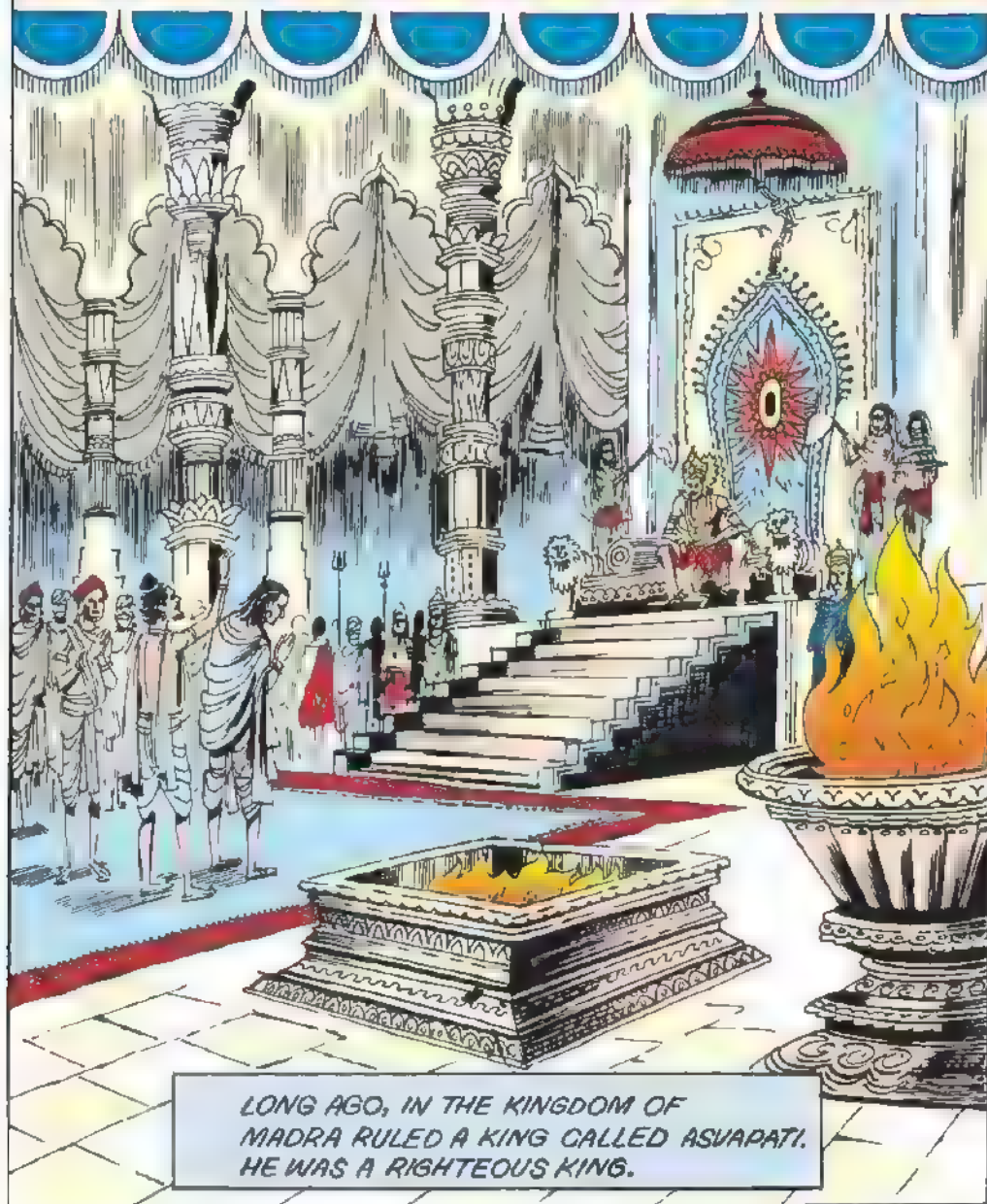
**Script**  
**Anant Pai**

**Illustrations**  
**Ram Waeerkar**

**Editor**  
**Anant Pai**

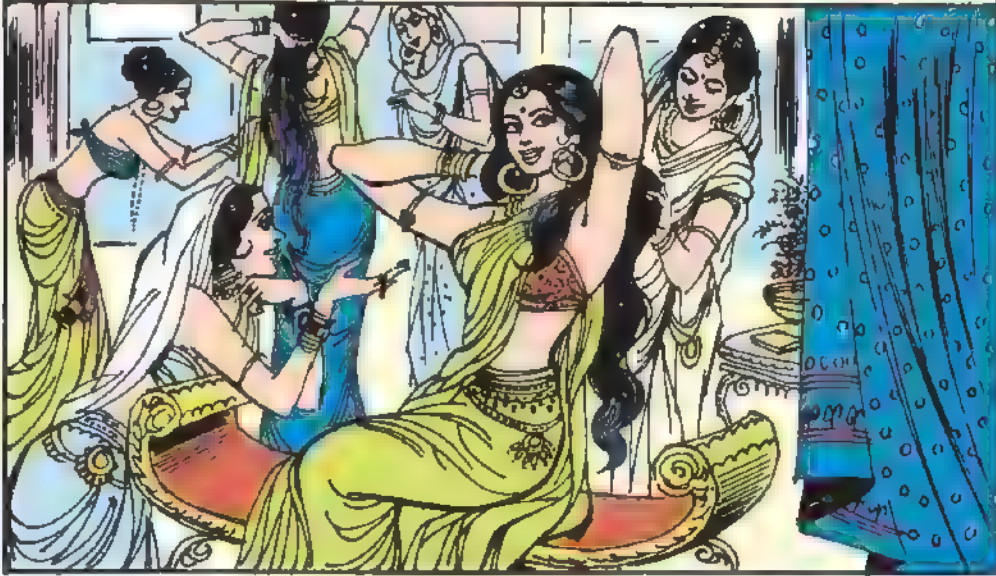
*Cover illustration by: Pratap Mulick*

# SAVITRI





HE HAD MANY WIVES - AS WAS THE CUSTOM IN THOSE DAYS.  
THE PALACE ECHOED WITH THEIR HAPPY VOICES.



BUT ASVAPATI WAS  
UNHAPPY. HE HAD  
NO CHILDREN.



WHY  
ARE YOU  
SAD,  
YOUR  
MAJESTY?

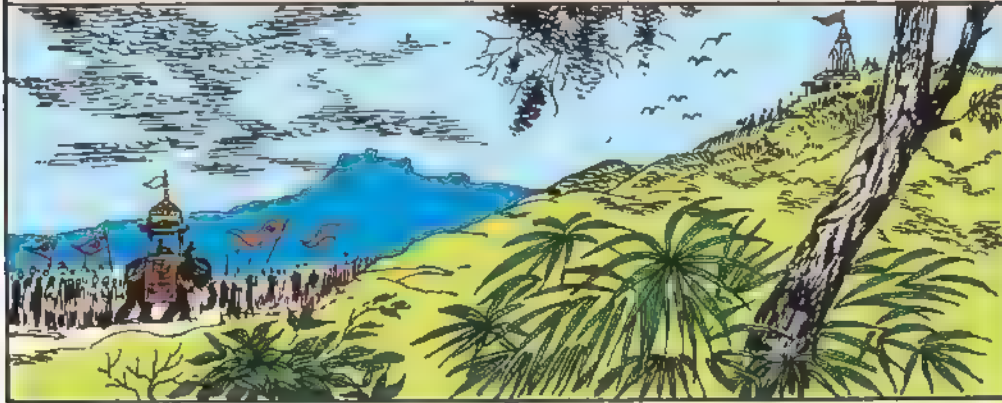
I HAVE  
WORSHIPPED  
THE GODS  
BUT STILL  
HAVE NO  
CHILD.

YOUR  
MAJESTY!  
I HAVE  
HEARD  
GOD SAVITR  
FULFILLS  
MANY  
WISHES!

SAVITR?  
THEN I  
SHALL GO  
TO HIS  
TEMPLE.

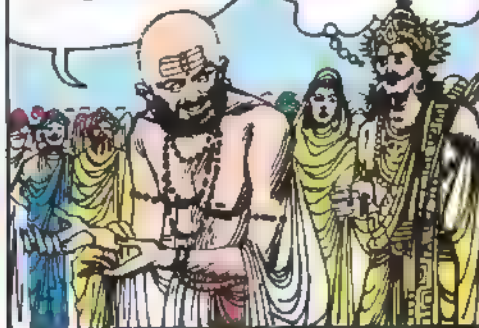


SOON A ROYAL PROCESSION WOUND ITS WAY TO THE SAVITR TEMPLE...



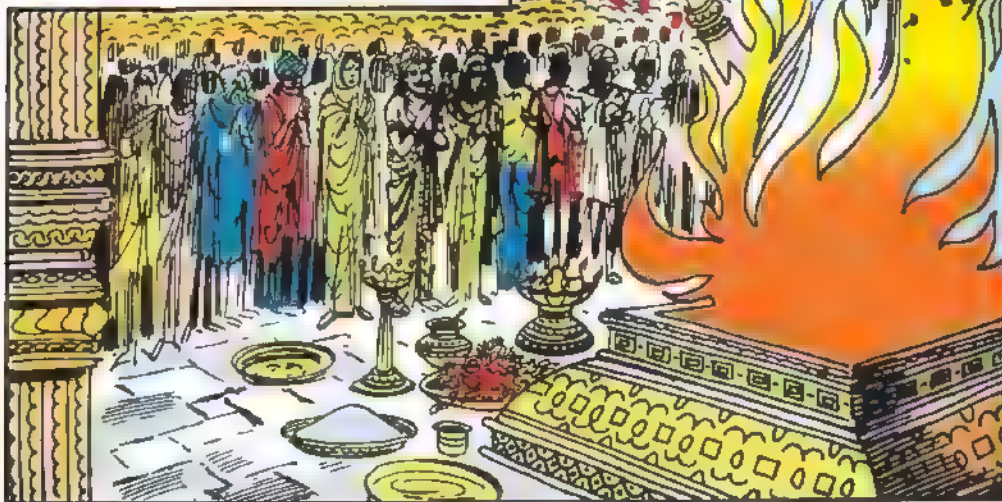
FROM THIS  
HOLY FIRE THE  
GOD WILL  
ACCEPT YOUR  
OFFERING!

WILL HE  
FULFIL MY  
HEART'S  
DESIRE?



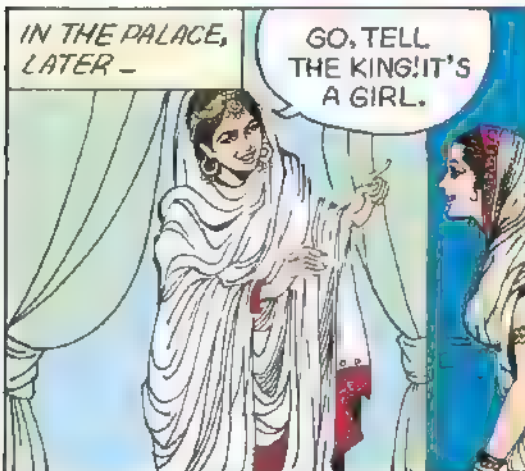
THEN THE TEMPLE WAS BATHED  
IN LIGHT AND THE GOD  
APPEARED BEFORE THE KING.

YOU ARE PURE  
IN HEART!  
YOUR WISH  
WILL BE  
FULFILLED!





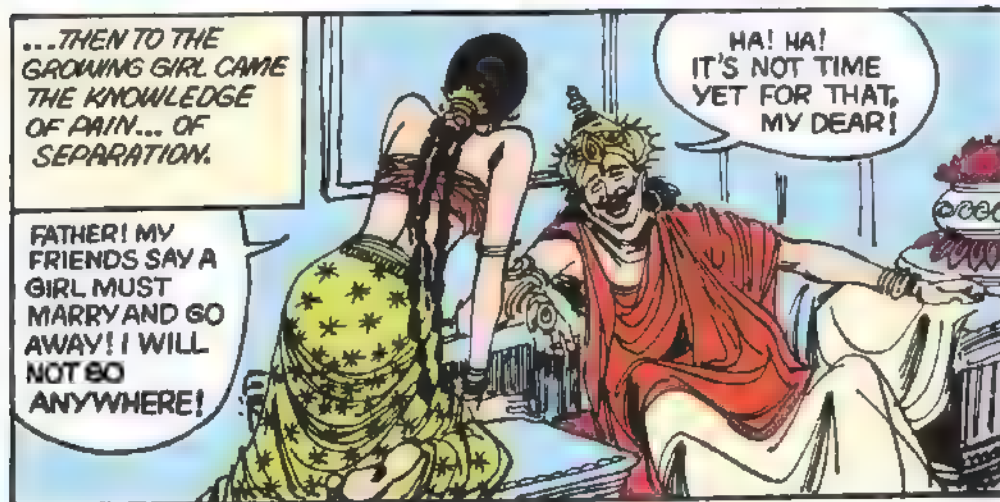
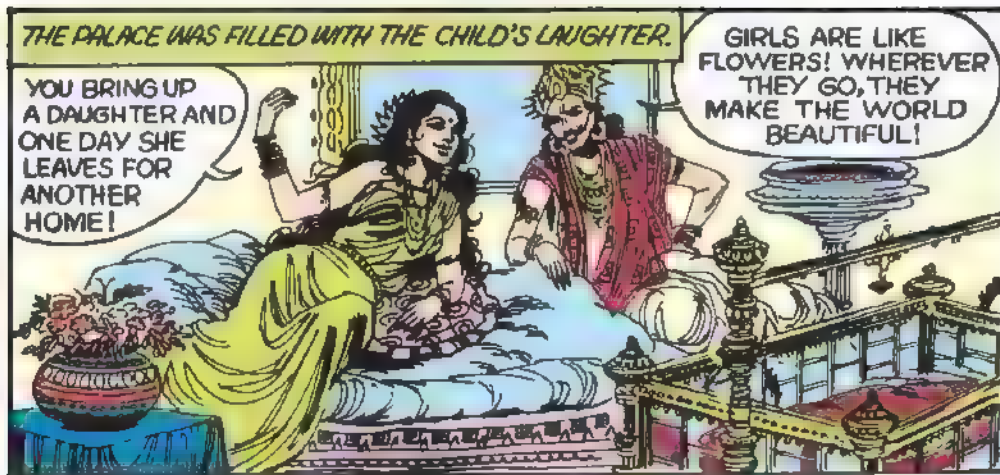
THE MONTHS PASSED, ON THE DAY OF THE CHILD'S BIRTH, THE PEOPLE GATHERED OUTSIDE THE PALACE GATES WAITING FOR THE NEWS.



THE WHOLE KINGDOM REJOICED. THE KING GAVE AWAY CLOTHES AND JEWELS.







BUT TIME PASSED... SAVITRI HAD GROWN TO BE A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN. ONE DAY SHE CAME TO HER FATHER.



IN THE QUIET STILLNESS OF THE TEMPLE SITUATED ON A HILL TOP, SAVITRI'S HEART WAS FILLED WITH HAPPINESS.

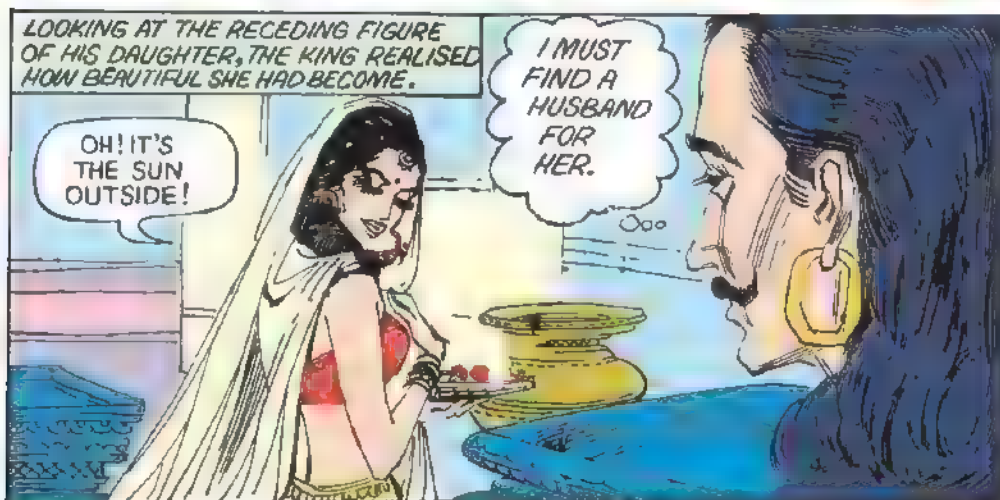
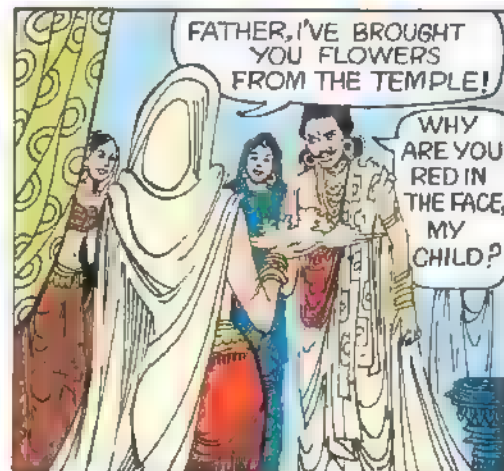
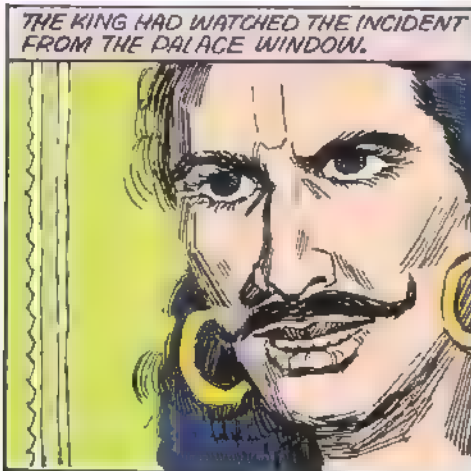
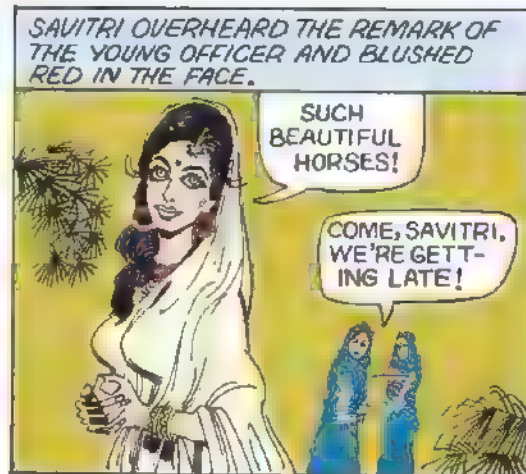
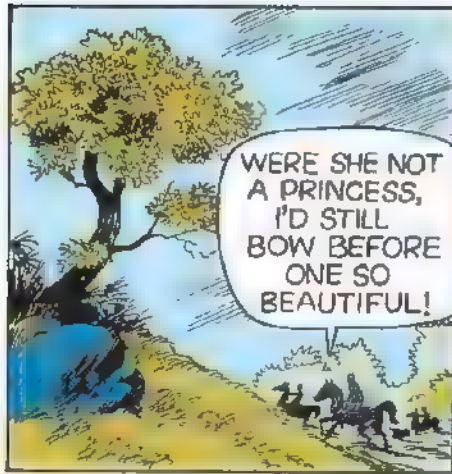


ON HER WAY BACK SAVITRI SAW A GROUP OF YOUNG OFFICERS RIDING NEAR THE PALACE GATE.

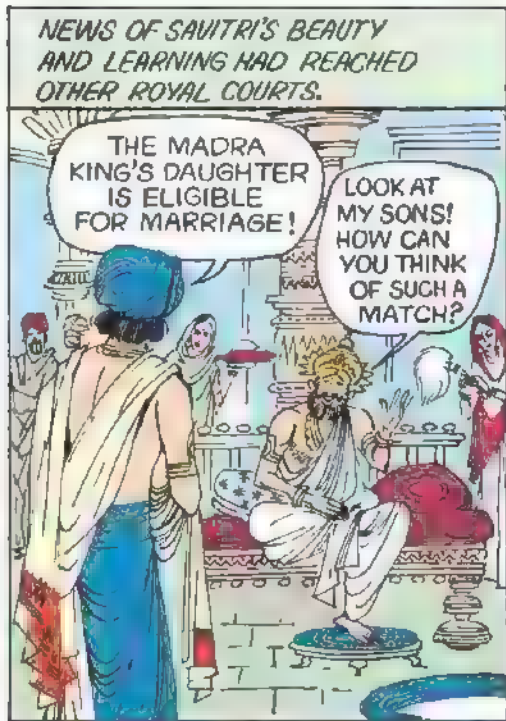




SAVITRI

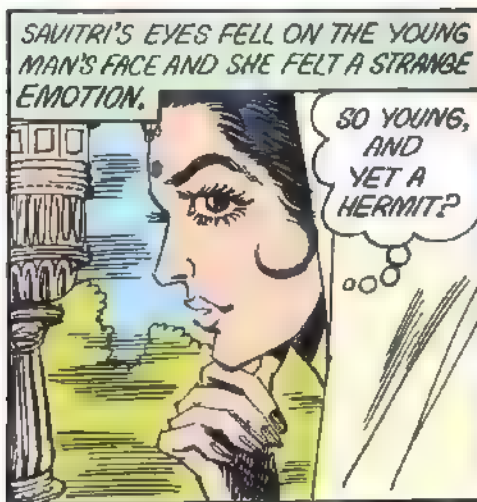
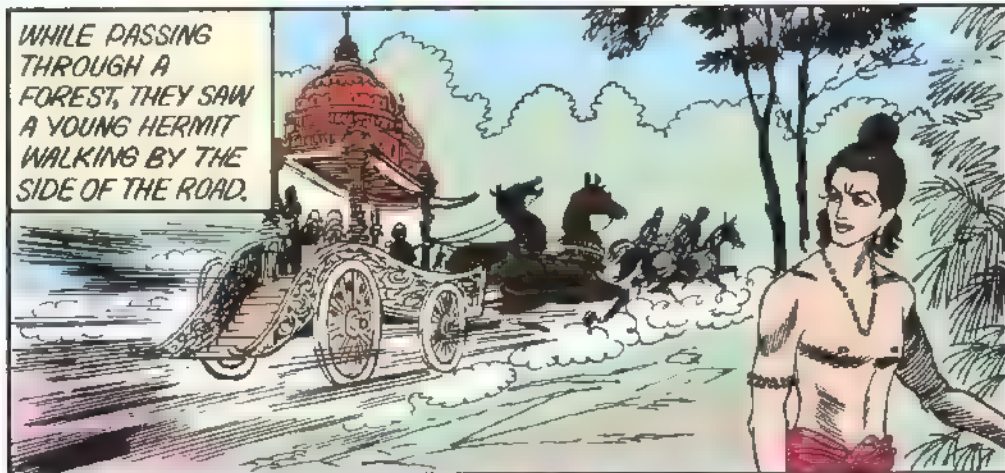
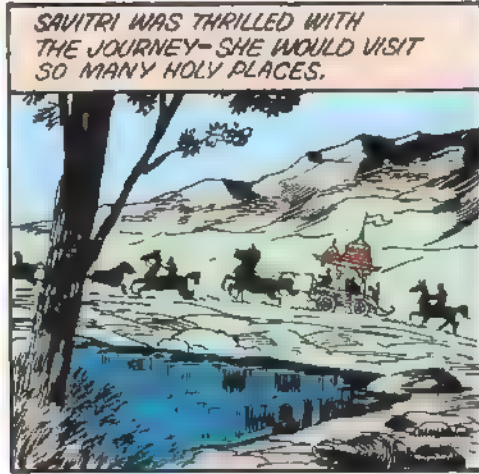
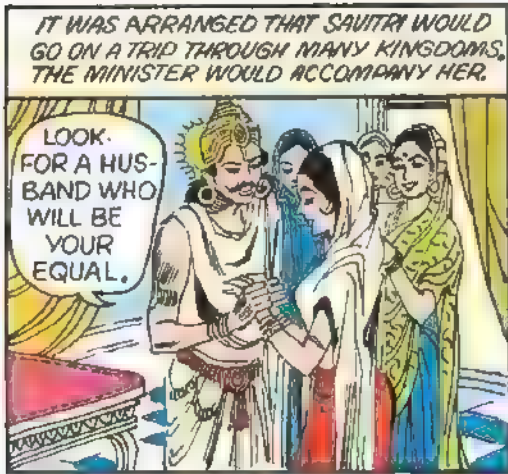




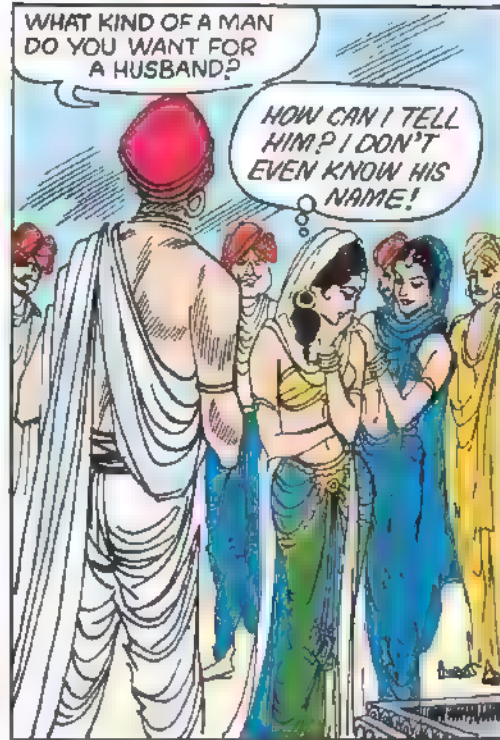
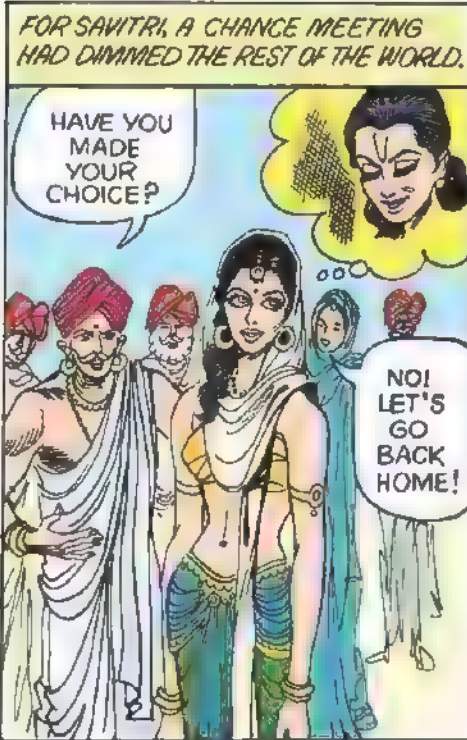


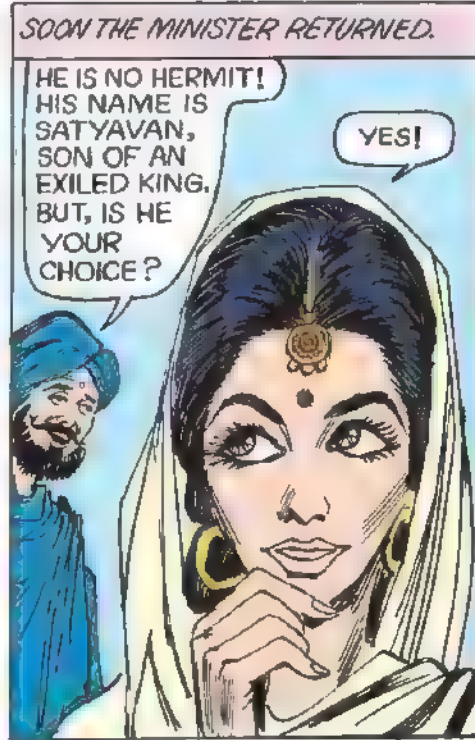




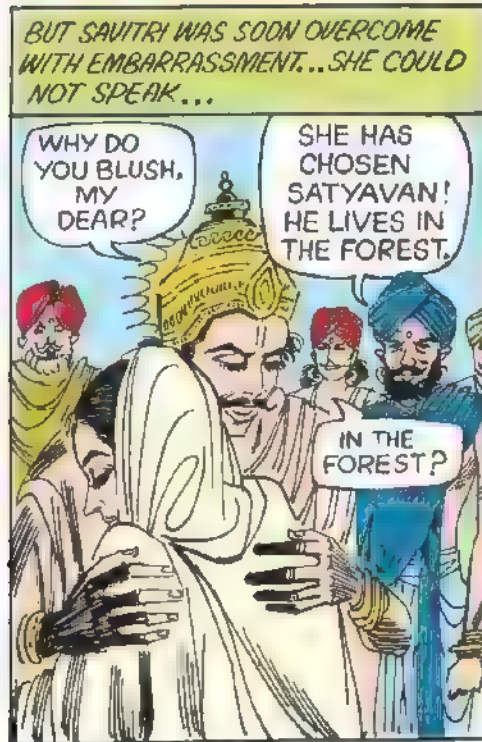
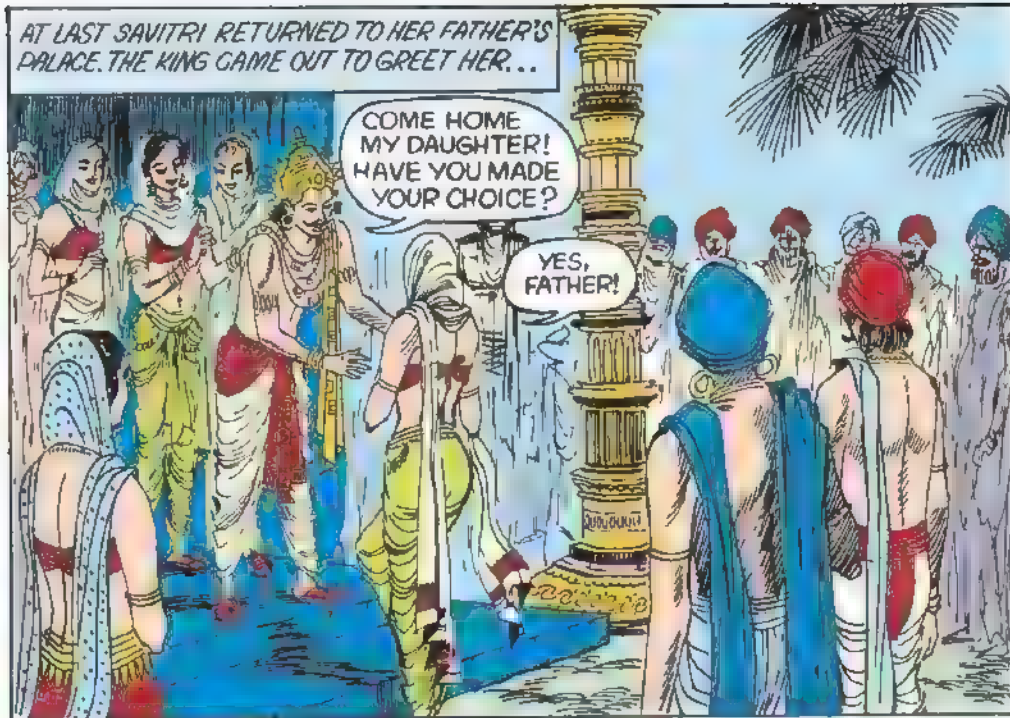




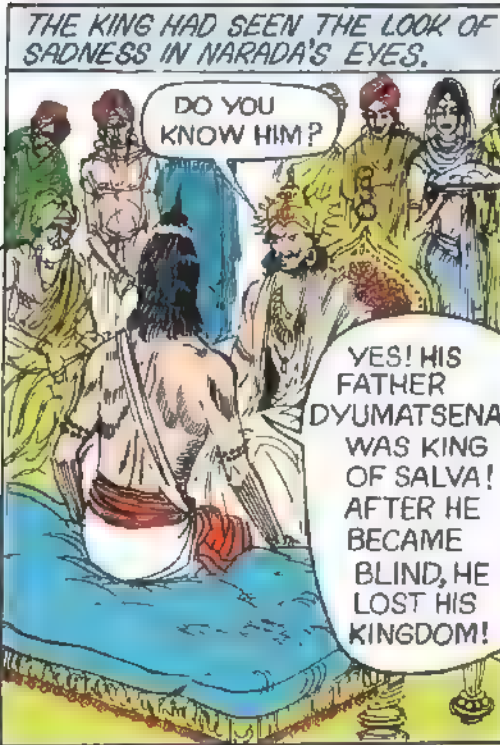
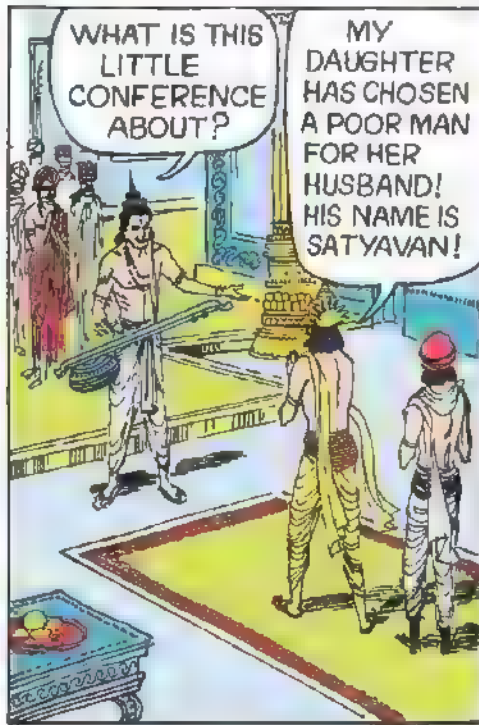


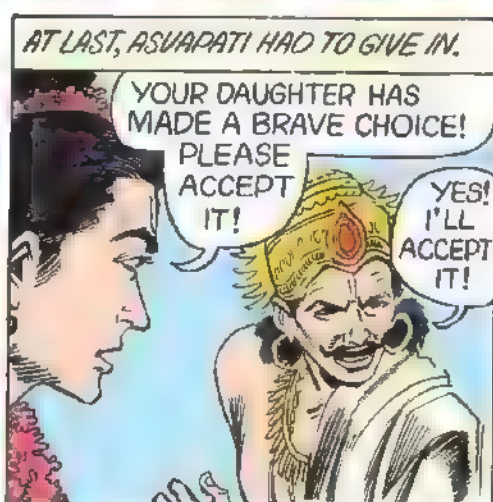
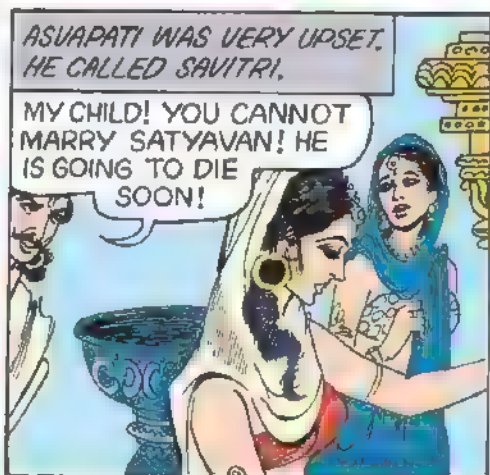
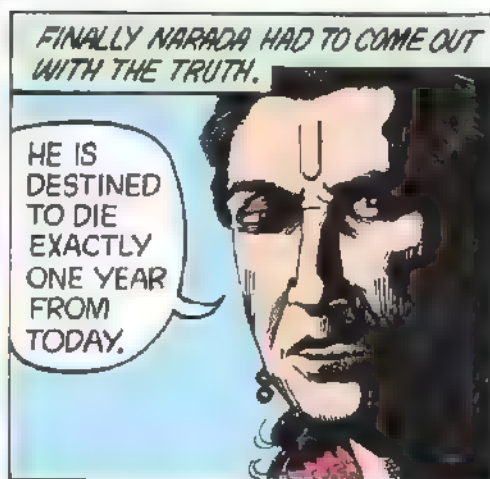
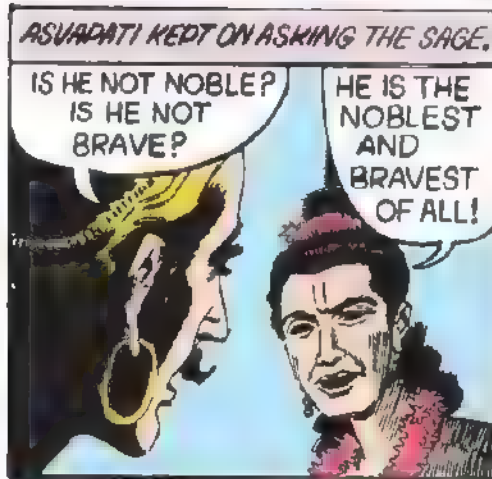










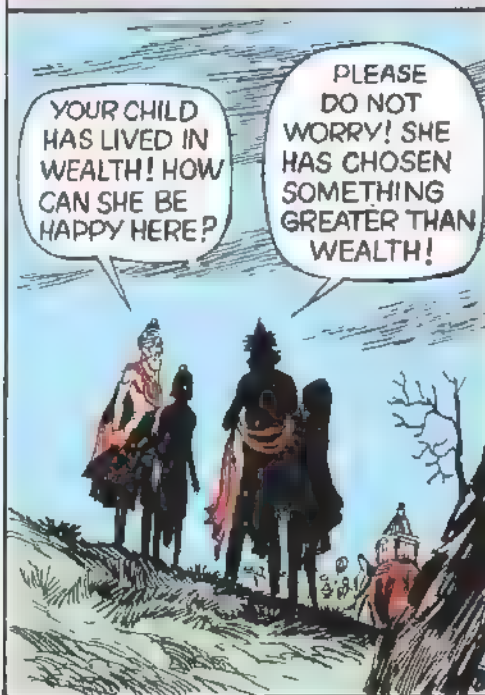




ONE DAY SOON AFTER, A BRIDAL PROCESSION REACHED THE FOREST...  
THE HERIMITS CAME FORWARD TO RECEIVE AND WELCOME THEM.



AT FIRST, DYUMATSENA WAS HESITANT.

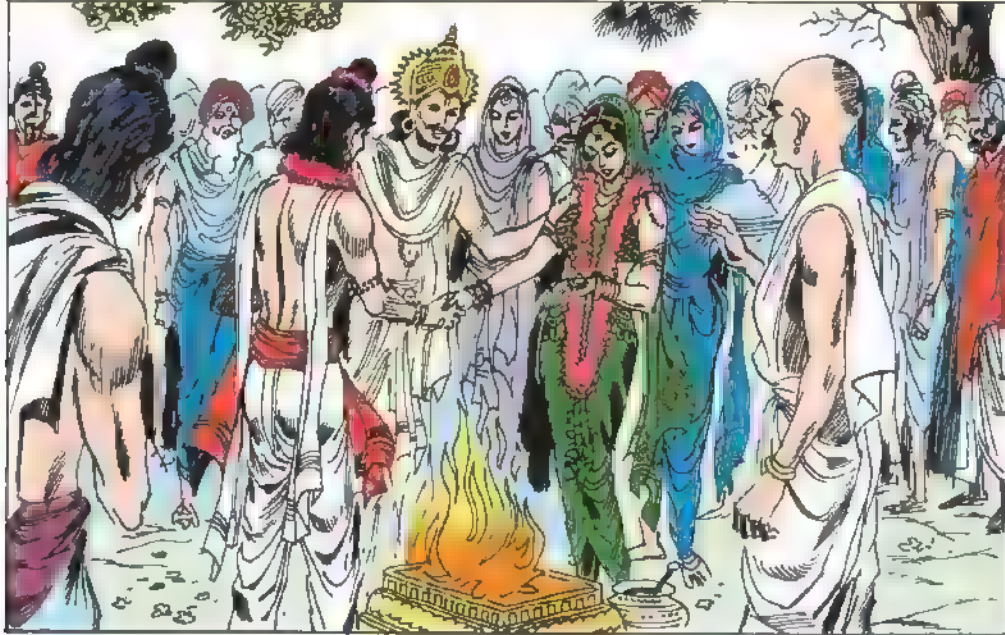


HER FRIENDS DRESSED SAVITRI BEAUTIFULLY.





CHANTING THE SACRED MANTRA OF MARRIAGE, ASVAPATI  
GAVE AWAY HIS DAUGHTER TO SATYAVAN.



THE BRIDE AND GROOM WALKED  
AROUND THE SACRED FIRE SEVEN  
TIMES. THEY WERE MARRIED NOW.



THEN IT WAS TIME FOR FAREWELL.

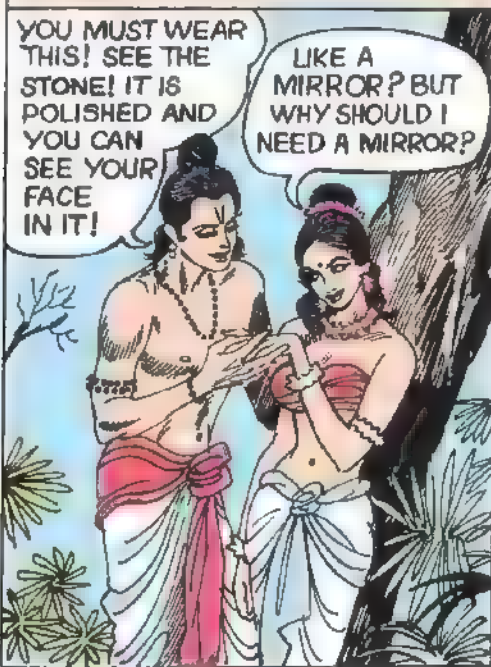
BE PROUD OF  
YOUR CHOICE AND  
BE HAPPY!



AS SOON AS HER PARENTS LEFT, SAVITRI TOOK OFF ALL HER JEWELS AND CLOTHED HERSELF IN CLOTHES OF BARK.



SATYAVATI TOOK OUT A BEAUTIFUL RING HE HAD KEPT FOR HER.





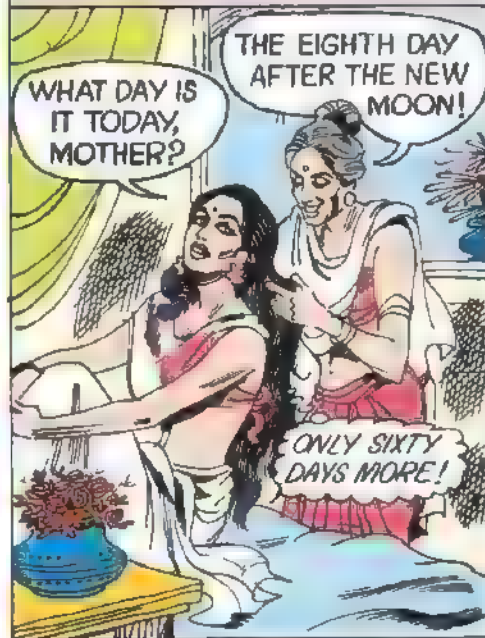
SAVITRI WAS EXTREMELY DEVOTED TO HER PARENTS-IN-LAW! SHE LOOKED AFTER THEM LIKE A DUTIFUL DAUGHTER.



IT'S LATE, MY CHILD! YOU MUST GO TO BED!

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I CAN DO?

AS THE DAYS PASSED, A SECRET AGONY GREW WITHIN HER HEART.

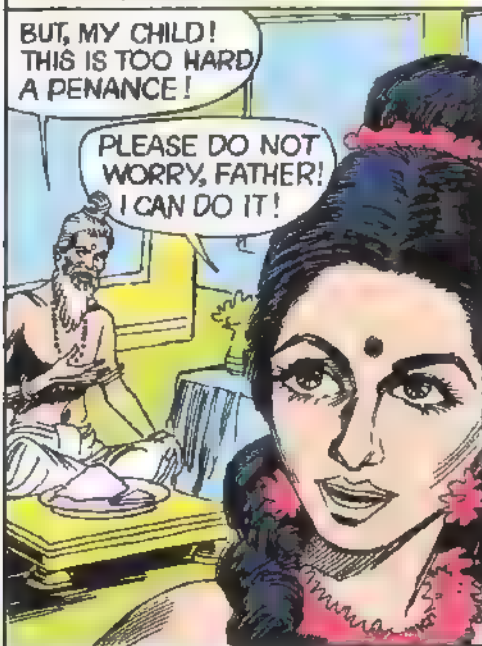


WHAT DAY IS IT TODAY, MOTHER?

THE EIGHTH DAY AFTER THE NEW MOON!

ONLY SIXTY DAYS MORE!

AT LAST, THE YEAR WENT BY. THREE DAYS BEFORE THE FATEFUL DAY, SAVITRI BEGAN FASTING.



BUT, MY CHILD! THIS IS TOO HARD A PENANCE!

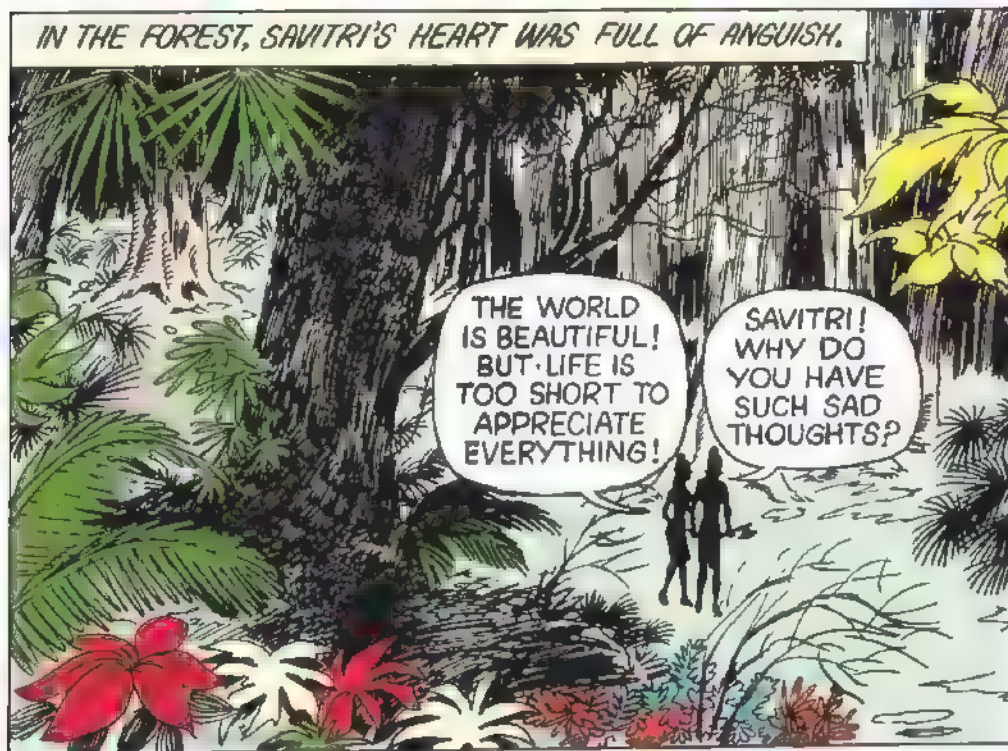
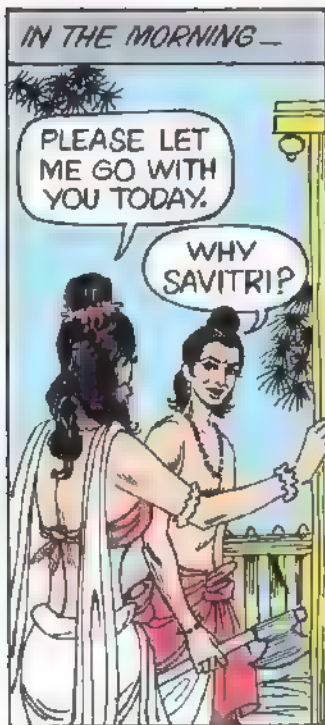
PLEASE DO NOT WORRY, FATHER! I CAN DO IT!

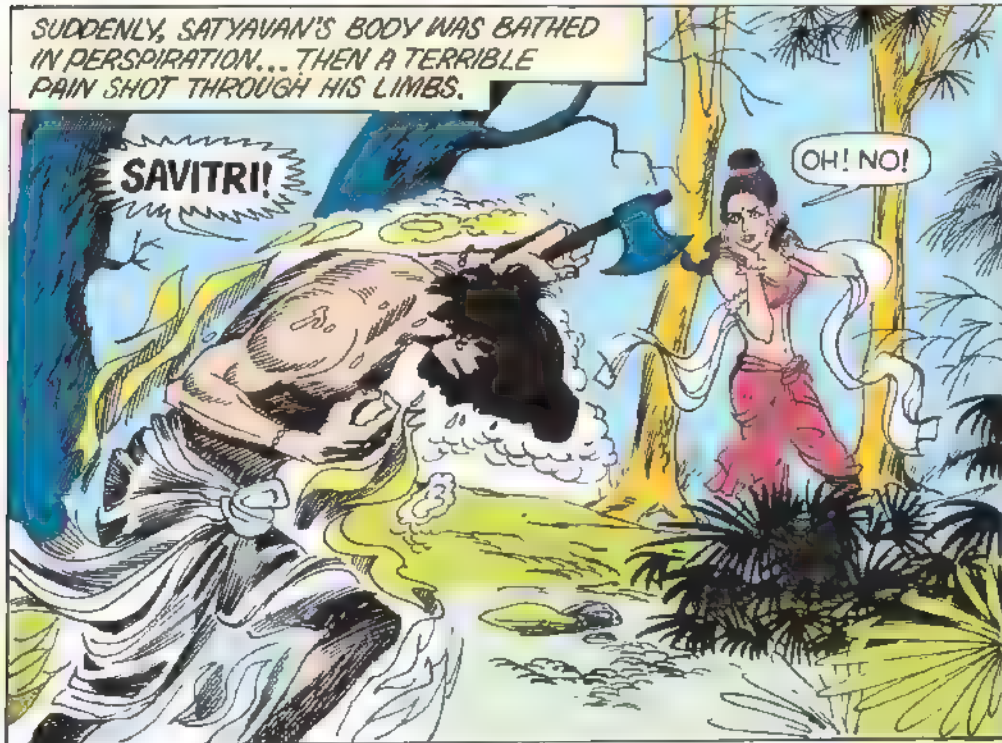
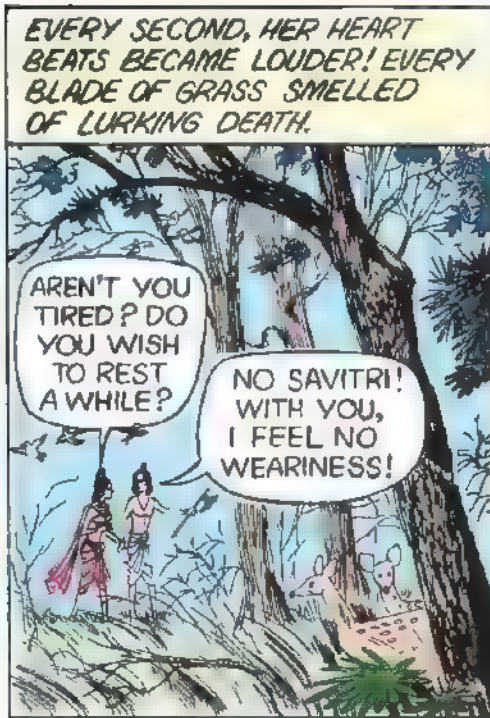
ON THE LAST NIGHT SHE COULD NOT SLEEP. ONLY ONE THOUGHT KEPT ON HAUNTING HER.



TOMORROW MY HUSBAND IS FATED TO DIE! WHAT SHALL I DO?









SAVITRI RAN TOWARDS HER HUSBAND...

SAVITRI, MY LIMBS ARE LOSING ALL SENSATION! LET ME SLEEP FOR A WHILE!



SOON, SATYAVAN'S BODY BECAME STILL.

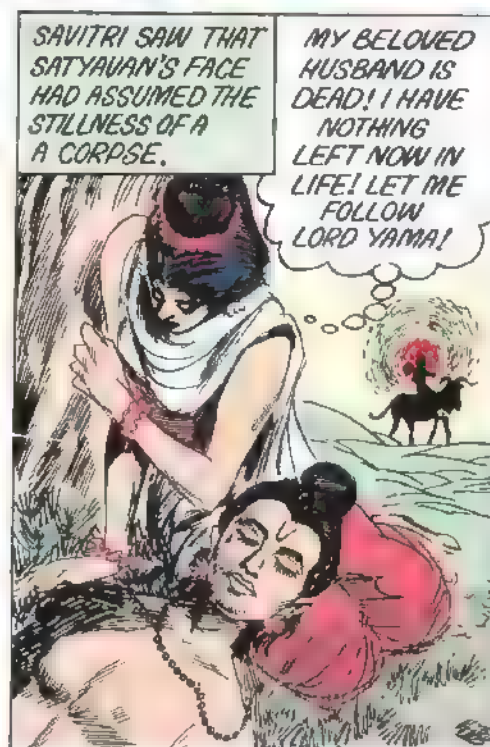
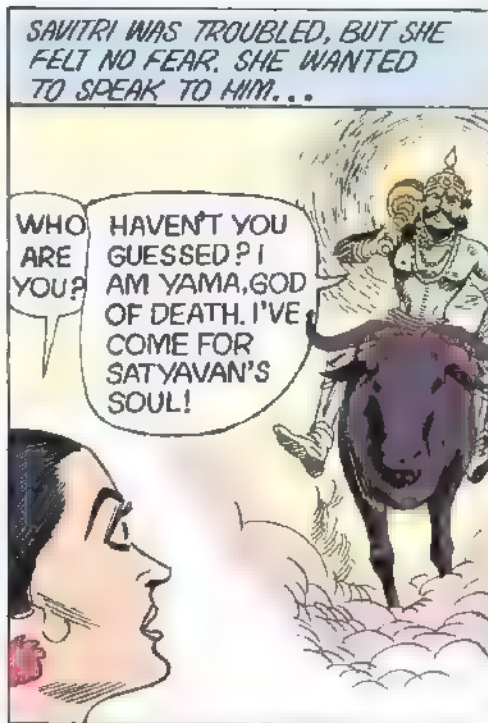
SO THIS IS THE END?



THE FOREST AROUND HER HAD DARKENED... A HEAVY STILLNESS FILLED THE AIR... SAVITRI LIFTED HER HEAD AND SAW A DARK FIGURE CLAD IN RED, A CROWN SHINING ON HIS HEAD.







SAVITRI FOLLOWED YAMA FROM A DISTANCE! THE TALL SOFT GRASS OF THE FOREST MUFFLED THE SOUND OF HER ANKLETS.



SOON THEY CAME UPON A STREAM. HERE TOO THE WATER SOFTENED THE SOUND OF HER FOOTSTEPS.



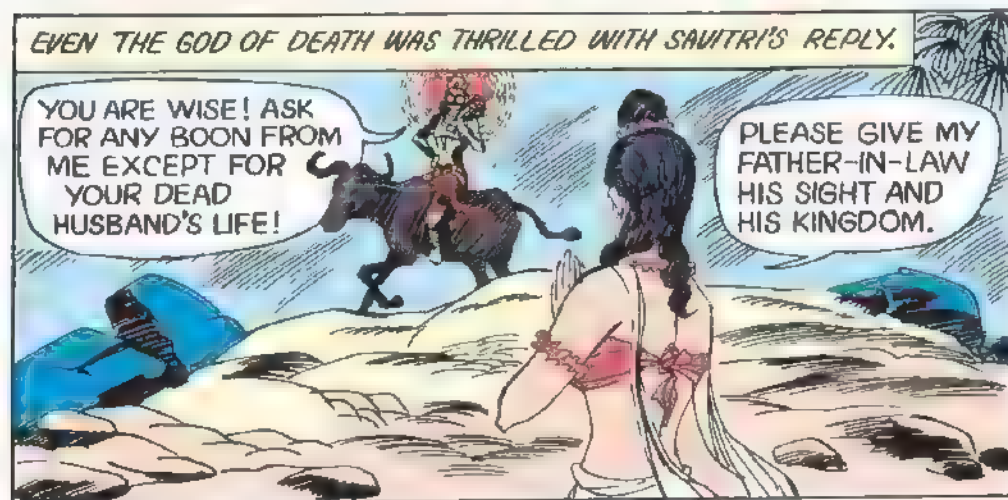
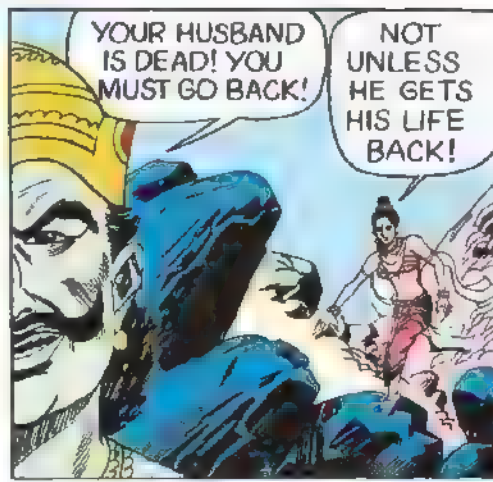
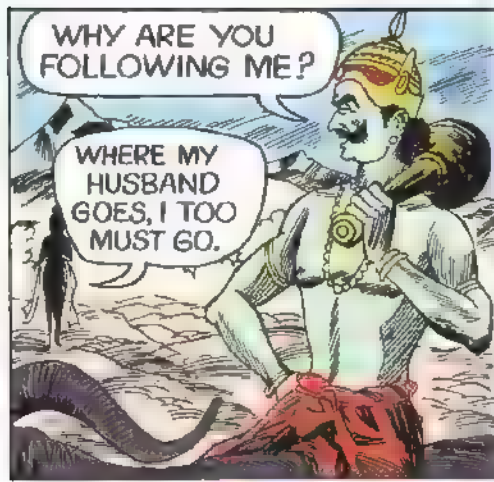
ON THE HARD GROUND, HER ANKLETS FILLED THE AIR WITH A MOURNFUL SOUND...



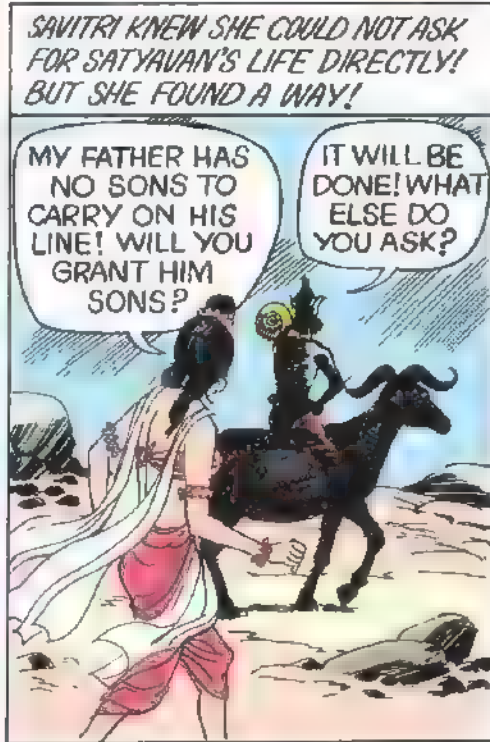
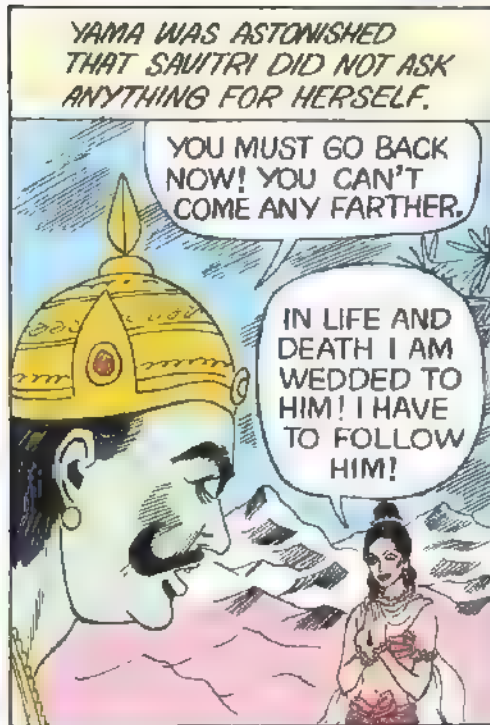
...WHICH SOON REACHED YAMA'S EARS! THE GOD OF DEATH PAUSED TO LISTEN TO THE STRANGE SOUND.

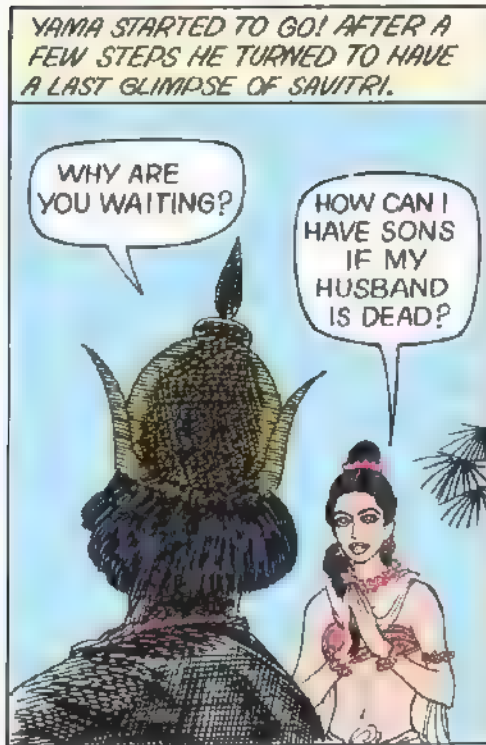


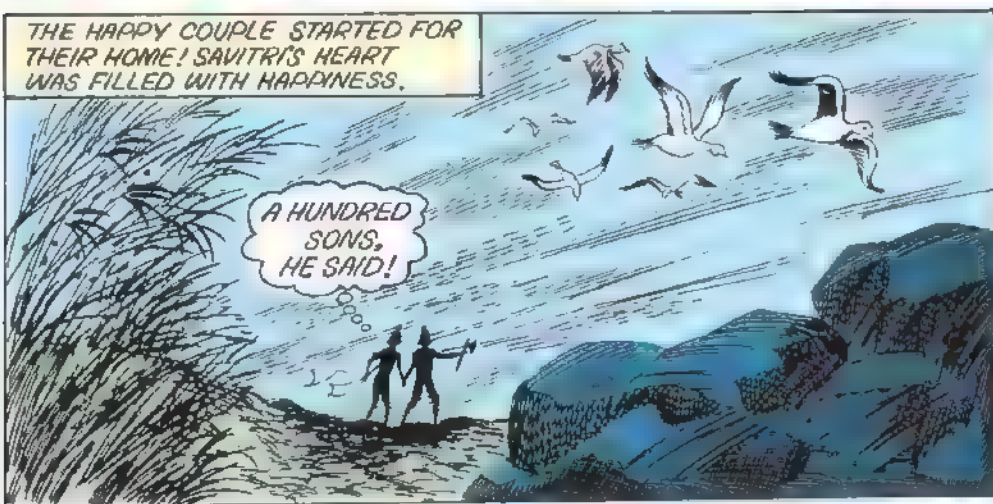
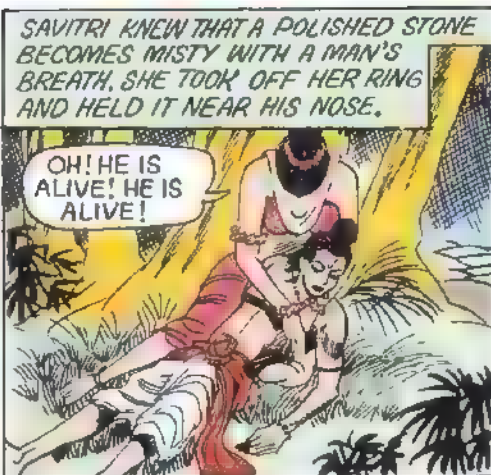
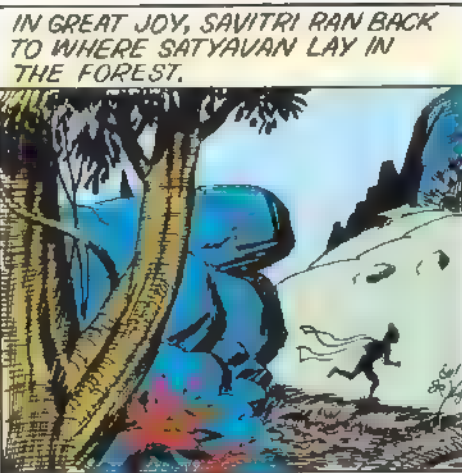




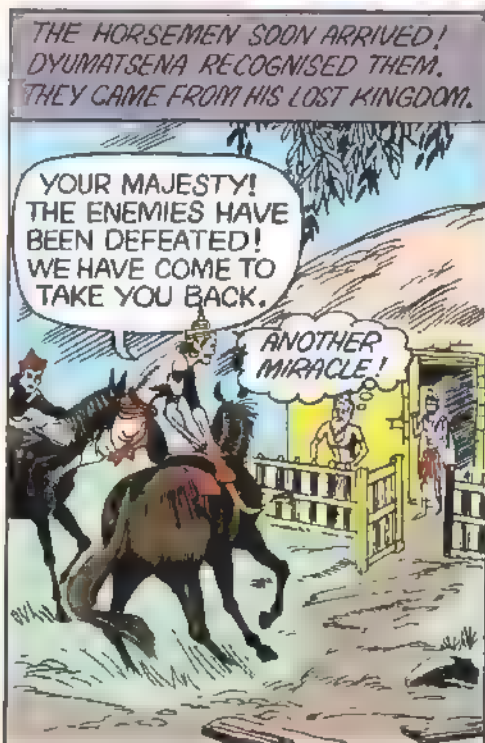
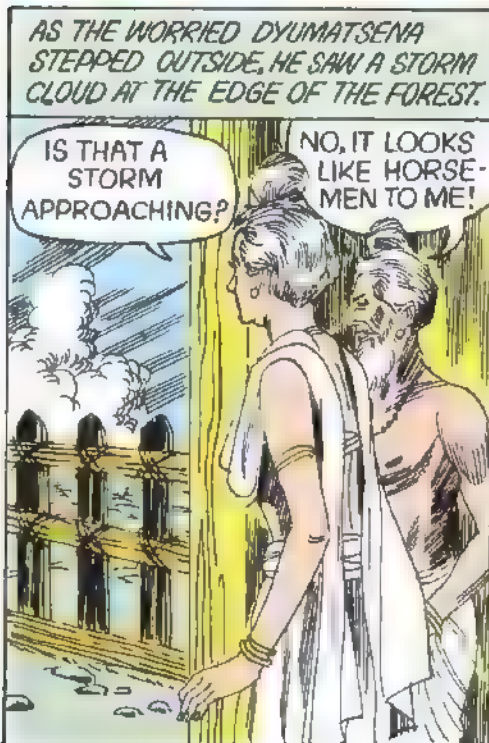
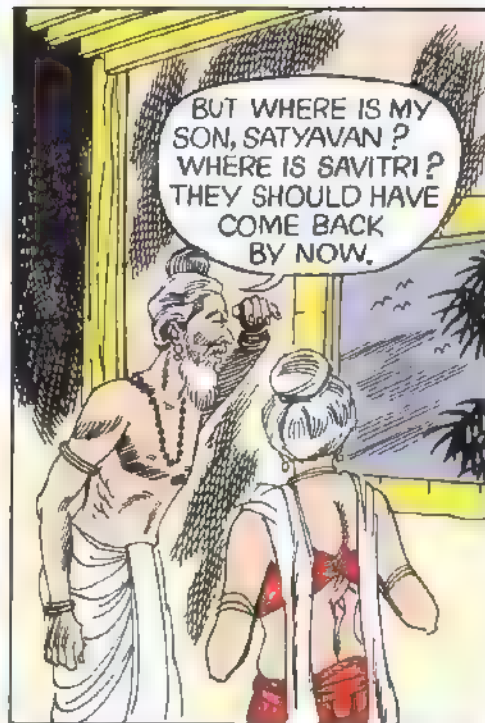


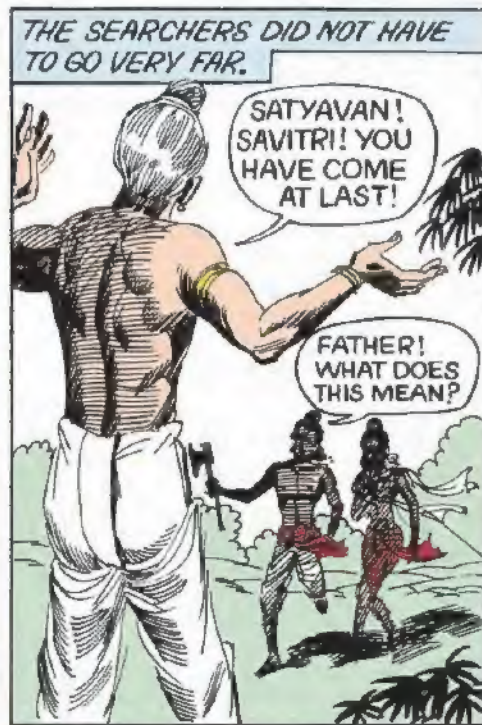
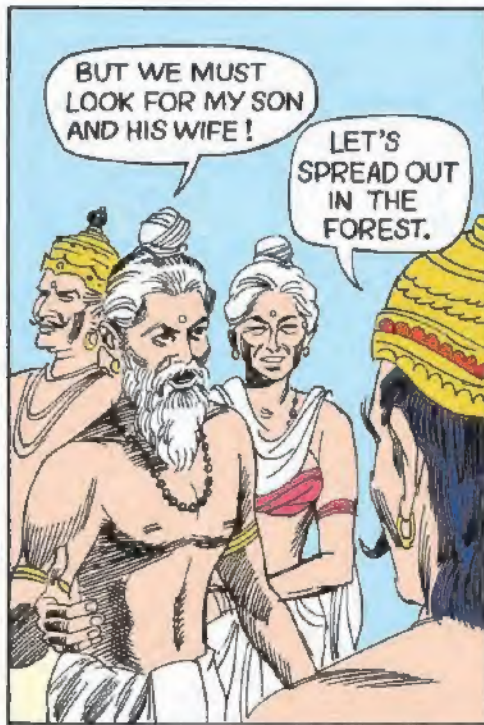














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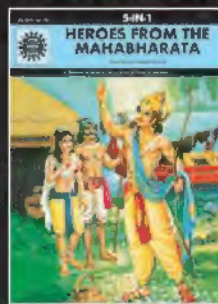
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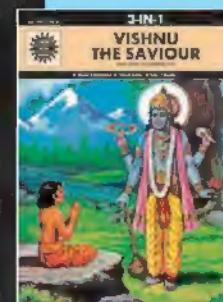
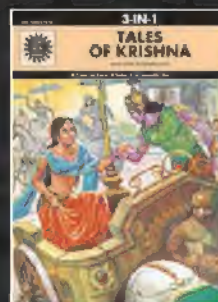
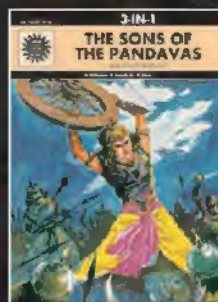
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